Northeast Florida's Premier Wedding & Special Event Authority

JACKSONVILLE MAGAZINE'S

Bride

Fall 2019



WHAT'S HOT

WEDDING TRENDS *for* 2019

Bridal Party Style

$2.95 JACKSONVILLEMAG.COM


Find your moment.
The one that sends a tingle behind your ear. That makes you forget the what-ifs. The one that makes you know without a doubt that this is where you're supposed to be. It's not always that big moment you're waiting for—sometimes it's the tiniest touch of a hand or the glimmer in an eye. It's the little moments that make it a milestone.
Learn how Publix can be part of your life's most memorable milestones at publix.com/milestones.
Publix.
WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE®





We set the table for beautiful weddings at our oceanfront resort and serve up a sense of wonder as well. The loveliest indoor and outdoor venues provide the perfect backdrop for a destination wedding, a heartfelt ceremony, a rehearsal dinner, or a lavish affair. Inspired cuisine, a signature cocktail, swoon-worthy details, and impeccable service from our treasured staff launch your happily ever after.

You bring the love. We'll make it magical.

ESTABLISHED 1928

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL 32082 | PONTEVEDRA.COM | (904) 273-7755

JACKSONVILLE MAGAZINE'S Bride











Clockwise from top: Jennifer Mosley, Agnes Lopez, West House Photography

ABOUT THE COVER:

Photographer: Agnes Lopez
Makeup: Makeup by Tricia
Hair: Grazyna Mercado
Styling: DonnaReine Enterprise
Models: Allana Marolt, Stephanie Wong, Ashley Cetin
Location: Hotel Palms

about us

WHITE PUBLISHING COMPANY

PUBLISHER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Joseph White

EDITORIAL

EDITOR
Virginia Chamlee

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Emily Bailey

PROOFREADER
Kathy Weedon

INTERNS
Cassidy Hopson, John Newsom, Deanna Pisacreta, Lauren Willins, Blossom

CREATIVE

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Jennifer Compton

DESIGNER
Heather Kruse

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Agnes Lopez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Christina Karst, West House Photography, Madison Hope, Cailin Smith, Jennifer Mosley, Tyler Mackenzie

SALES

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
DIRECTOR OF SALES & MARKETING
Amy Robertson

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Jessica Lindsay

AD COORDINATOR / SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR / 904TIX
Mandy Niesen

ACCOUNTING
Wendy Castro

INTERNS
Hannah Johnson, Rebecca Olson

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Reggie Jolly

SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS / INQUIRIES
(904) 389-3622
circulation@jacksonvillemag.com

JACKSONVILLE MAGAZINE'S **Bride**

A biannual supplement of Jacksonville Magazine

1261 King St., Jacksonville, FL 32204
(904) 389-3622 • Fax: (904) 389-3628
Website: JaxMagBride.com




6201620

editor's note



Millennials have been blamed for a lot in recent years, from the death of sit-down chain restaurants to the demise of department stores. The latest industry to fall victim to our whims, according to economists, is the bridal industry. Recent data suggests that Millennials (an age group of which I'm more than familiar, having been born in 1985 myself) are abandoning the traditional white wedding, opting instead for elopements or courthouse ceremonies followed by a celebration with friends.

So, why are we bucking the trend? Well, there's the cost, for one thing. Many couples don't necessarily have the resources to splash on a weekend-long affair consisting of rehearsals, cocktail parties, brunches and, of course, the main event. And frankly, many couples nowadays have been living together for months or years before they're wed, making the big to-do a bit of a formality.

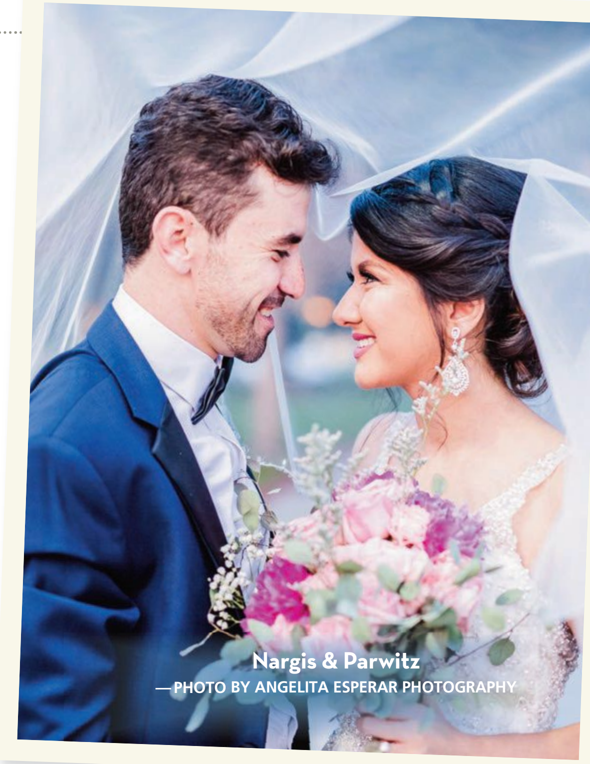
Elopements these days aren't what they used to be, though. In fact, some are meticulously planned out, making them slightly simpler—and, yes, typically less expensive—versions of a traditional ceremony.

Millennials might be "killing" weddings, but we still believe that celebrating love—in all its many forms—is more necessary than ever. If a white gown, veil and 200-person seated dinner is your thing, that's plenty romantic. But modern love can also be celebrated with a weekend getaway (you'll find a few stellar options on page 50) in a fabulous ensemble that you won't necessarily find in a bridal store (check page 42 for our picks). Even if the tiered cake and the pageantry aren't necessarily your thing, marking such a momentous occasion with the family and friends that helped get you there probably is.

Whether you plan to celebrate with ten guests or 100, a certain amount of planning (see our venue guide on page 56) is required. In our bi-annual bridal issue, you'll find plenty of tips, tricks and inspiration for your big day—along with several photos of happy couples who got hitched *their* way, surrounded by friends, family, and lots of love. And what could be more romantic than that?

Virginia Chamlee

Editor



Nargis & Parwitz
—PHOTO BY ANGELITA ESPERAR PHOTOGRAPHY

ANNOUNCE YOUR WEDDING

Northeast Florida newlyweds are invited to announce their nuptials in the area's premier lifestyle publication, *Jacksonville Magazine*, as well as our twice-annual supplement, *Bride*. For details, visit JaxMagBride.com and click the "Submit Your Wedding" tab.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @JACKSONVILLEMAG

jacksonvillemag
Jacksonville, Florida



413 likes

jacksonvillemag I love you. I know.
May the fourth be with you like it was with this couple for their Imperial wedding send off... more

wedding Album

NORTHEAST FLORIDA COUPLES SMILE FOR THE CAMERAS



Kendall Durante + Nathan Wheeler

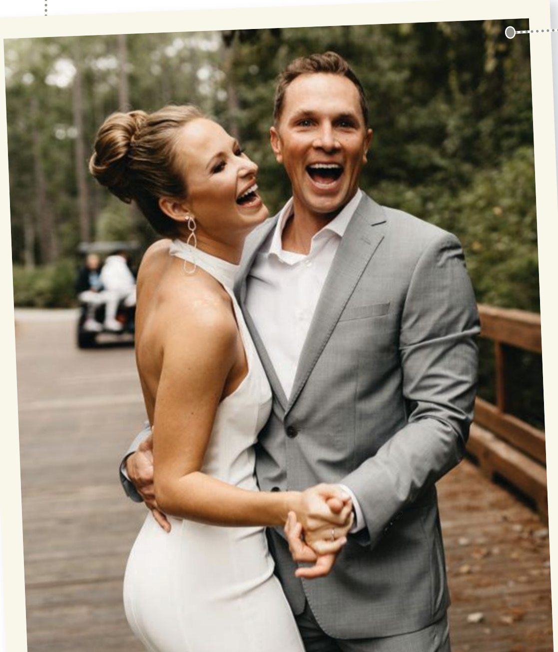
Kendall and Nathan were married April 12, 2019. The ceremony and reception took place at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club. "I'm actually from New Orleans, and still think of it as home. So for our entrance into the reception we had a second line parade," says Kendall. "To honor Nathan's love of weight lifting his groom's cake was in the shape of his favorite protein powder package." — PHOTO BY J. MOSLEY



Naomi McGowan + Russ Jackson

Naomi and Russ were married September 28, 2018. The ceremony and reception took place at the Casa Marina Hotel in Jacksonville Beach. Russ surprised Naomi with a proposal next to the Castillo de San Marcos in St Augustine, and the wedding was planned just six months later.

—PHOTO BY JAMES SCHLEFSTEIN



Angela Welch + John Limanti

Angela and John were married November 25, 2018. The ceremony and reception were held at Crosswater Hall at Nocatee. Their reception menu was strictly no-frills, with favorites such as tacos, pizza, and donuts.

—PHOTO BY WE ARE THE BOWSERS

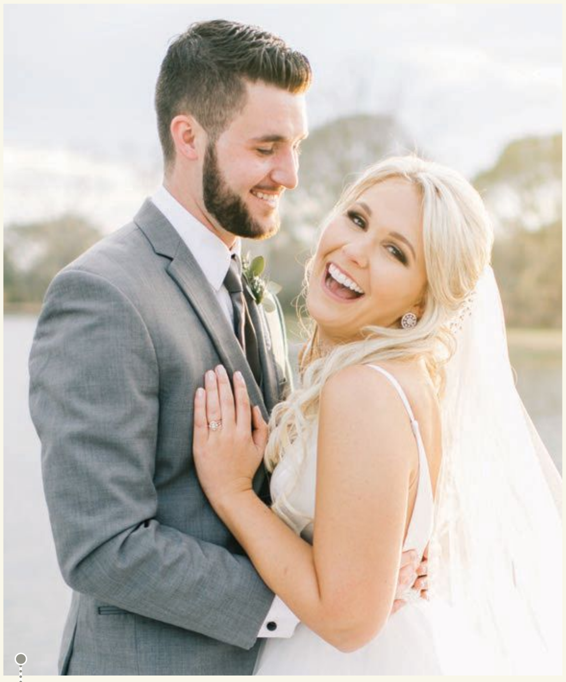


Sonya Saldivar + Josh Hurrell

Sonya and Josh were married July 28, 2018. The ceremony took place at San Marco Preservation Hall and the reception was held at Olio. "We love Jacksonville and incorporated our treasured locations into our wedding, like the Florida Theatre, the Seth Thomas Clock, San Marco Preservation Hall, and the hidden gem of Downtown—Olio restaurant. Their shrimp tacos are amazing!" says Sonya.

—PHOTO BY LYNDSEY ANNE PHOTOGRAPHY


INFINITELY YOU
UNFORGETTABLE. INSPIRED BY YOU.



Whitney Moore + Alan Hodges

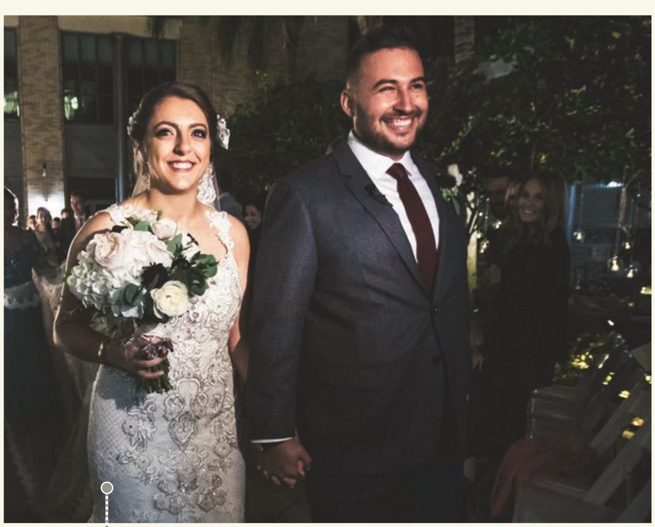
Whitney and Alan were married January 19, 2019. The ceremony and reception took place at The Barn at Cottonwood Ranch. The couple met at Baker County High School and have been best friends since ninth grade. A highlight of the wedding was a fifteen-minute choreographed fireworks extravaganza synced to their favorite music. —PHOTO BY WILER WEDDINGS



Christine McFaul + Matt Caven

Christine and Matt were married February 23, 2019. The ceremony took place at Trinity Lutheran Church and the reception was held at the Hyatt Regency. Embracing the Downtown location, the couple had a live artist painting the Main Street Bridge at their reception.

—PHOTO BY ALONDRA VEGA PHOTOGRAPHY



Jeannette Saliba + Chase Smith

Jeannette and Chase were married December 22, 2018. The ceremony and reception were held at the Jacksonville Public Library Downtown. "The reception was a beautiful medley of cultures and filled with non-stop dancing—both American music and traditional Lebanese dancing, which made for amazing pictures and memories," says Jeannette. —PHOTO BY LUKE NIEUWHOF



Zsanine Gross + Raheed Bryant

Zsanine & Raheed were married December 28, 2018. The ceremony and reception took place at Fort George Island. "We chose sacred land that was documented in our history as owned by slaves. We started doing research to see how they got married and we did just as they did," says Zsanine. "In one of the pictures we found there was a couple who were married in between two trees—so we did the same."

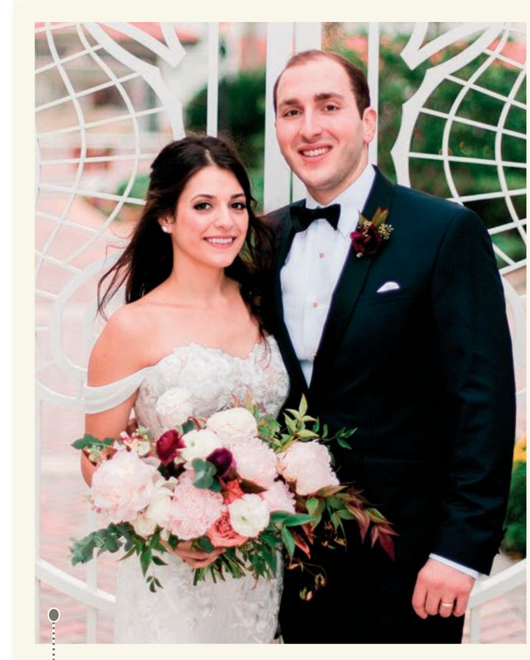
—PHOTO BY CHIP DIZARD



Riley Slay + Michael Liguori

Riley and Michael were married December 8, 2018. The ceremony was held at Christ Episcopal Church and the reception took place at TPC Sawgrass. For their Christmas-themed send off the couple departed in a horse-drawn sled as guests threw eco-friendly snow.

—PHOTO BY ANASTASIIA PHOTOGRAPHY



Danielle Smowton + Alexander Mussallem

Danielle and Alex were married November 24, 2018. The ceremony was held at Basilica of The Immaculate Conception and the reception took place at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. "Ponte Vedra holds a special place in our hearts because my parents started their love story at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. My father proposed to my mom there 29 years ago," says Danielle. "When Alex and I got engaged we knew we wanted to continue our love story at PVIC and carry on our family traditions there." —PHOTO BY DEBRA EBY



Anastasia Mann + Alexander Mankin

Anastasia and Alex were married November 3, 2018. The ceremony was held at St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church and the reception took place at Timuquana Country Club. "When I was five years old, I was a flower girl in a wedding. Their reception was also at Timuquana Country Club. I whispered to my mom, 'When I grow up, I want to have my wedding here.' My mom nodded to humor me. Twenty-one years later, my dream became a reality!" says Anastasia.

—PHOTO BY FLORA + FAUNA PHOTOGRAPHY



Lindsey Bessing + Cody Wheaton

Lindsey and Cody were married September 29, 2018. The ceremony and reception were held at the Riverside House. Since Lindsey was seven months pregnant at the time of the wedding the couple plans to honeymoon in Italy on their one-year anniversary.

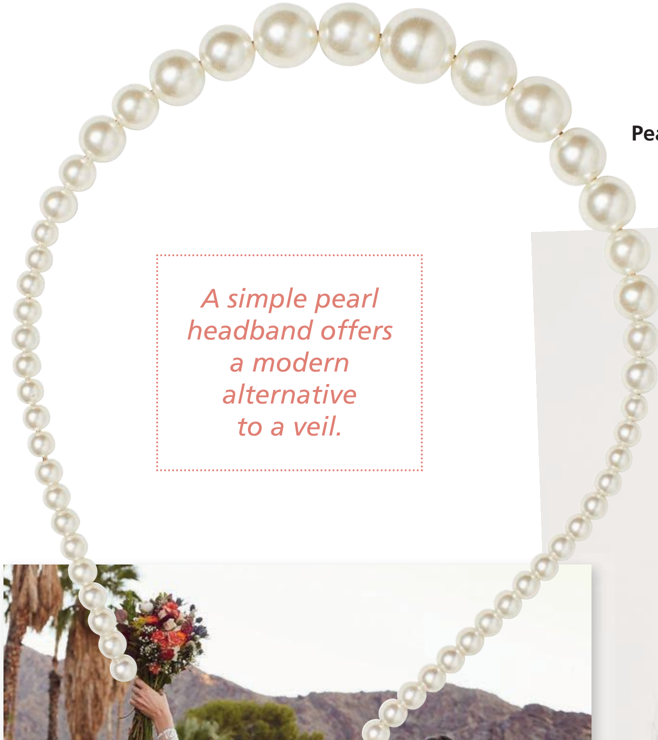
—PHOTO BY MARIA BERLIN

live well

BRIDE ON A BUDGET

An over-the-top white dress moment needn't cost an arm and a leg. Below, some budget-friendly buys to take you down the aisle in style.

Center image via Nordstrom



Pearl headband
$8, H&M

A simple pearl headband offers a modern alternative to a veil.



Strapless dress
$500, Giambattista Valli for H&M





Freshwater pearl necklace
$58, Baublebar



Ivory ruffle heels
$100, Something Navy for Nordstrom



Blush trio
$42, NARS



Two, Waterfront Venues in One Great Location

Welcome to Elegance and Romance on the St. John River in Orange Park, where you have your choice of two Stunning and Unique venues on the same property. Choose from the Historic 1874 Southern Plantation Home or a Mediterranean Style Mansion built in 1922; both offer award winning catering, gracious staff and lodging to enhance your special day.





Coming Soon

Azaleana Manor

12 Kingsley Ave.
Orange Park, FL 32073
(904) 930-7514

What's Hot

Wedding Must-Dos Trending in 2019

#WEDDINGHASHTAG

Everyone knows that to have an unforgettable wedding, one needs the right venue, the right music, the right food and the right décor. This being 2019, if there wasn't a wedding hashtag then was there even a wedding? After the grand proposal, there are a million decisions to make, and Wedding Wire, a website that connects couples with wedding planners, now offers a service that can at least get rid of one of them. Instead of racking your brain for something cute, funny, or otherwise memorable, just plug in the associated names and some other basic info and a generator will pop out a related, and maybe even useful, wedding hashtag. Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively, were they to get married all over, would turn out: #letitberyanandblake, #rushingtoreynolds, and #runawaywith-reynolds. Kim and Kanye? #kanyegotkimed-away or #kimwantskanye. You get the idea. Ah, technology. ✣ —John Newsom

#SHESAIDWES
#IFITSBROWNITSDOWN
#FOREVERYOUNGE
#SHESTHEMANNELLY
#PROMDATE2LIFEMATE
#HALLMYLOVIN
#SNOWDENTHISSUMMER

#HONEYIMHOOD
#SAYYESTOTHEKRESS
#GETTINGMEOWIED
#TOHAVEANDTOHOLTON
#4EVERFOREHAND
#ITHEEWEBB
#MIKEGOTJENGAGED

Flower Power



Bouquet by Liz Stewart Floral Design

While past years have brought a stream of vibrancy and color, 2019 bouquet trends are all about a return to boho greenery and airy, tropical arrangements. Florist Liz Stewart, who created the bouquet pictured above, says this translates to "a lot of neutrals with pops of very deep rich colors." Stewart likes to incorporate a mix of dry and fresh elements in her arrangements, including both dry and fresh palm leaves. For a tropical touch, she suggests orchids, plumeria and hibiscus, which add color and height. ✣ —Deanna Pisacreta



Serenata Beach Club

AT SOUTH PONTE VEDRA

3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd.,
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
(904) 823-3368 | serenataclub.com





Imagine the cool ocean breeze and the sound of the surf for your dream wedding. Serenata Beach Club is the ultimate location for couples searching for memories that will last a lifetime. We welcome your call and visit.





By *Cassidy Hopson*



MANDY & JOE

November 3, 2018

Mandy and Joe met in Memphis, Tennessee seven years ago. They were neighbors, and for awhile were nothing more, giving the polite wave when taking out the trash or pulling into the driveway. Then one day a snowstorm provided an opportunity for them to get better acquainted.

“I knew after spending a fun snow day with him, sledding down hills along the Mississippi River, that I kind of liked him,” says Mandy. “After he cooked for me there was no turning back. The man knows his way around the kitchen.”

They had been dating for three years when Mandy was turning 30, and they planned a trip to New York City to ring in the celebration. Joe planned on celebrating more than just Mandy’s birthday. “Joe had been keeping a journal from the time he got the ring to the time he proposed—an entry every day for why he loved me. He gave this to me on my birthday and on the last page was his proposal letter,” says Mandy.

Mandy read the journal again on the morning of the wedding. “It was filled with stories, memories, and inside jokes that reminded me of all the reasons I couldn't wait to marry my best friend,” she says.

CREDITS

PHOTOGRAPHER: Tyler Mackenzie • **CEREMONY LOCATION:** St. Peter’s Episcopal Church • **RECEPTION LOCATION:** Private property along the St. Johns River • **WEDDING PLANNER:** G.G. Events • **HAIR:** Kenzie Sparks, Studio Bride • **MAKEUP:** Erin Foster, Artistry by Erin • **WEDDING GOWN:** White Magnolia • **VEIL:** Bliss Wedding Veil (Etsy) • **HAIR PIN:** RosyRose Studio (Etsy) • **EARRINGS:** Ros • **NECKLACE:** Treasures570 (Etsy) • **BRIDE’S SHOES:** Willow Waters Illustration • **BRIDESMAID DRESSES:** White Runway New York • **GROOM’S ATTIRE:** Black Tux • **BRIDE’S RINGS:** Grandmother's heirloom rings • **GROOM’S RING:** Jens Hansen • **CAKE:** Biscotti’s • **FLOWERS:** Flower Studio Amelia Island • **CATERER:** Chef’s Garden • **SEATING CHARTS:** PLPapers • **DÉCOR:** G.G. Events and Flower Studio Amelia Island • **WATERCOLOR PORTRAIT:** Liset Justiniano of Paperless Post • **WATERCOLOR MAP & CALLIGRAPHIC SIGNS:** Willow Waters • **ONLINE SAVE THE DATES, INVITATIONS & MENUS:** Paperless Post, Rifle Paper• **LIGHTING & MUSIC:** DJ Jacob Co • **TENTS & RENTALS:** Beachview • **WEDDING WEBSITE AND REGISTRY:** Zola


ENTECOST
7
71
137
10
IN MEMORY OF













CLOSE TO HOME

The bride and groom featured family photos and past family weddings into their own day. “it was so fun to see all the happy days of weddings past,” says Mandy. • The theme for the wedding was “Classic Florida” with the colors mint, orange, navy, and green. • Mandy says it’s hard to choose a favorite moment from the evening, but standouts include “seeing all of our loved ones packed in the church, kissing Joe for the first time as his wife, watching the sunset on the water while saying hello to all of the wonderful people who celebrated with us, and doing the twist with my dad on the dance floor.”









Mandy and Joe decided to keep things personal by celebrating their reception at Mandy's family home. Decor at the reception included heirloom greenery from the property.





SCHOOL PRIDE

Joe's family and friends traveled all the way from Texas to come to the wedding and Joe showcased his love for his team, Texas A&M. The groom's cake, a carrot cake from Biscottis, was adorned with the Texas A&M seal on top. Then, he followed the Texas A&M tradition at weddings by singing the Aggie War Hymn around a bonfire at the end of the night. • "We skipped favors in lieu of a late night snack—chicken and waffle skewers. What can I say, food is my favorite kind of favor," says Mandy.

By *Cassidy Hopson*



KRISTEN & PRESTON

December 30, 2018

One typical Sunday in January 2016 Kristen went to a friend's house to watch an NFL playoff game. When she arrived she noticed the party was a small gathering of what seemed to be a very select group of people. While most of the faces were familiar, there was a new one, Preston, to whom she was instantly drawn. Lucky for her, the feeling was mutual. "Preston describes it as love at first sight. We were attached to the hip ever since we met. We went on a date every night after that," Kristen recalls.

Two years later Preston planned more than just a date, booking a romantic getaway to the Big Apple. Before they even made it to their destination, they opened a gift on the plane from her father—an afternoon carriage ride through Central Park. "It was my first time in NYC and after a couple of hours exploring the city we took our carriage ride. Half-way through, the coachman stopped for us to take pictures at the Bow Bridge, as he said it was the perfect place to snap some beautiful photos. As I was admiring the view of the snowy lake, I turned to tell Preston 'Let's get a picture,' and when I turned around he was down on one knee!" says Kristen. "He was flushed and smiling from ear to ear and said, 'I've been wanting to do this for a while... I want to start a family with you. I want to have babies with you. Will you marry me?' In complete shock, with tears running down my cheek, I said yes!"

CREDITS

PHOTOGRAPHER: Madison Hope Photography • **CEREMONY & RECEPTION LOCATION:** The Lightner Museum • **WEDDING PLANNER:** Brittany Jones with Uncorked Occasions • **HAIR:** Nicole Drake with Nelson Crew Salon • **MAKEUP:** Artistry by Erin • **WEDDING GOWN & VEIL:** Monique Lhuillier from The Collection Bridal in Winter Park • **BRIDE'S JEWELRY:** Beard's Jewelry • **BRIDE'S SHOES:** Jimmy Choo • **BRIDESMAID DRESSES:** Lulus, Revolve, and Neiman Marcus • **GROOM'S ATTIRE:** John Craig Clothier • **GROOMSMEN'S ATTIRE:** Men's Wearhouse • **RINGS:** Beard's Jewelry • **CAKES & DESSERT TABLE:** Samantha Mayfair Cakes • **FLOWERS:** Lori Parker Floral Studios • **DÉCOR:** St. John's Illuminations & Rachael Kasie Designs • **CATERER:** The Purple Olive • **CALLIGRAPHER:** Calligraphy by Cami • **INVITATIONS:** Foxtrot Print • **MUSIC:** South City Live • **VIDEOGRAPHER:** Wes Davis Creative

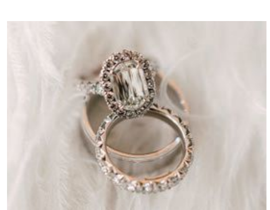








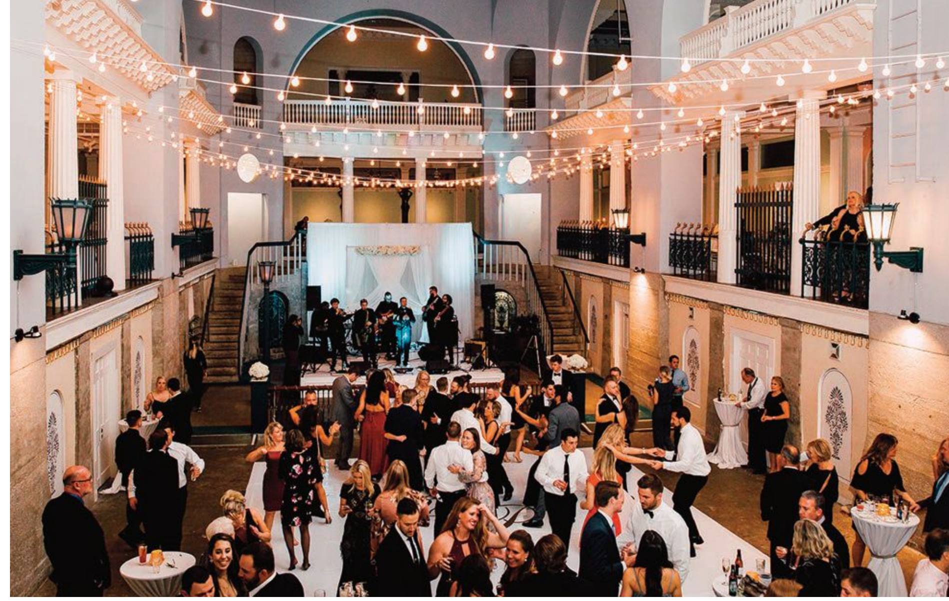





SENTIMENTAL TOUCHES

Kristen used her mother-in-law's silk wedding dress from 30 years ago to make her garter and a wrap to tie her bouquet together. "It was so special to my husband and I and something we will always remember," she says. • "I surprised Preston with a boudoir shoot that my photographer made into a beautiful photo album to give him as a wedding present. This was a complete surprise for him and he cried like a baby. His mom said, 'You cried? You should have been jumping up and down!'" laughs Kristen.

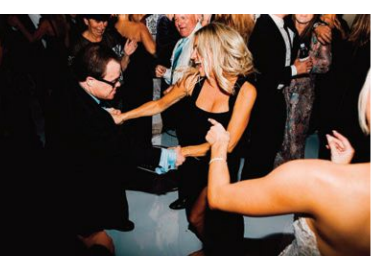


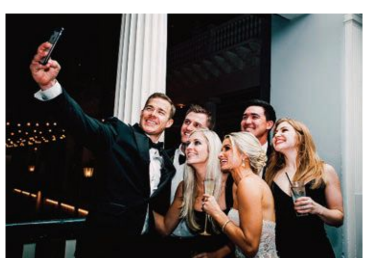




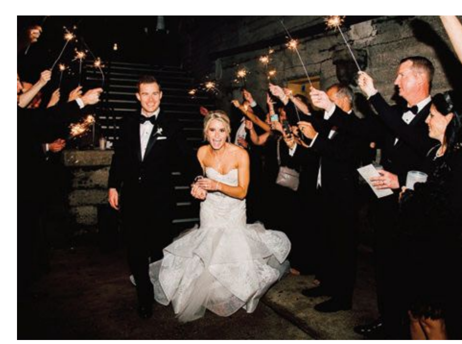
The ceremony and reception took place at The Lightner Museum, in what used to be the world's largest indoor swimming pool.



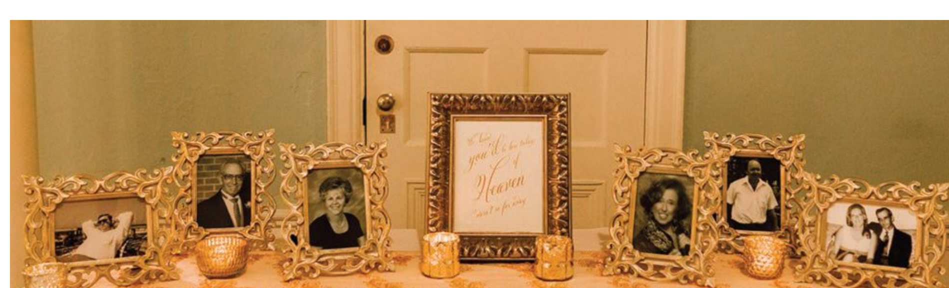












ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

Between the two of them they have one living grandparent. So, they wanted to honor their lost loved ones on their special day. They designed a sign with the words "If heaven wasn't so far away, I know you would be here today" accompanied by photographs of those who were no longer there to attend. "The memory table was so meaningful to us both, as we were very close to our grandparents that passed away," Kristen says. • "As I was walking down the aisle Preston started getting really choked up. I did the same so I just looked straight at him and mouthed, 'I love you.' My mom said she just lost it when I did that and that will forever stay in her heart," says Kristen.

By *Cassidy Hopson*



FELICITY & PAUL

January 12, 2019

Felicity and Paul met at church over ten years ago, quickly becoming close friends. Before their friendship had the chance to blossom into more, Felicity moved to Tallahassee for school and later Orlando for work, leaving behind the friends she had here in Jacksonville. After a few years she headed back to Duval, and, fully immersing herself in the city again, found herself at the Jacksonville Jazz Fest—where she happened to run into Paul.

"Honestly, I always liked Paul, but I felt friendship was the best place for us. After reconnecting with him at the Jazz Festival, that sparked feelings between us both," Felicity says. "We hit it off, spending practically all our time together. I feel like we both had the 'I've found the one' moment."

But in time they would be separated once again, Paul relocating to Phoenix for work. Having been dating for two years at this point, they didn't let the separation deter their relationship, working it out long distance.

As Felicity's birthday rolled around she suspected a proposal, having found an invoice from a Phoenix jewelry store, but didn't expect much when the plans ended up being quite casual. Sitting at the Poke Cafe, Paul just couldn't wait any longer and when Felicity looked up from her bowl of fresh tuna she found Paul on one knee holding out a ring.

"After our engagement Paul relocated back to Jacksonville. We hope to make the First Coast our lifelong home!"

CREDITS

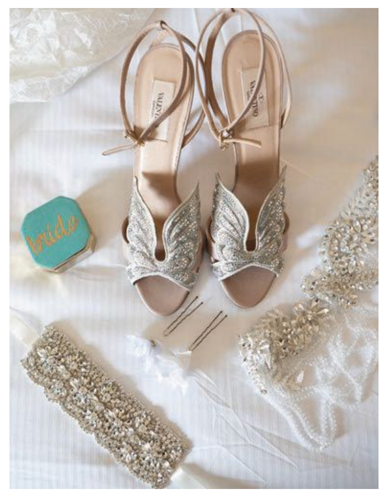
PHOTOGRAPHER: Jennifer Mosley • **CEREMONY & RECEPTION LOCATION:** The Florida Yacht Club • **WEDDING PLANNER:** Terri Gilbreath of G.G. Events • **HAIR:** Tomeka Morgan of Blue Leaf Salon • **MAKEUP:** Kimberley Jacques • **WEDDING GOWN & VEIL:** Bridal Reflections (New York, New York) & Vainglorious Brides Boutique by Selina Howard • **BRIDE'S CUSOM HEADPIECE:** Bridal Styles Boutique (Brooklyn, New York) • **BRIDE'S SHOES:** Badgley Mischka & Valentino Garavani • **BRIDESMAID DRESSES:** White Runway New York • **GROOM & GROOMSMEN ATTIRE:** Daniel Motora, The Tailor Shop • **RINGS:** Kay Jewelers • **CAKE:** Sherri Meyers, The Pastry Studio • **FLOWERS:** Parkers Events • **DÉCOR:** Parkers Events • **CATERER:** The Florida Yacht Club • **CALLIGRAPHER & INVITATIONS:** Heather O'Brien Design • **MUSIC:** Carlton McGhee of McGhee Entertainment • **BRIDAL STYLIST:** Selina Howard @vaingloriousbrides • **CINEMATOGRAPHER:** Ashley Canay Videography • **WEDDING PROGRAM:** Lynette White of Data Cue Typesetting • **COFFEE BAR:** Samuel Uhland of Espresso à la Carte















TEARS OF JOY

Felicity tried on her wedding gown in Manhattan two weeks before the ceremony. She was fitted in the gown within 24 hours and the dress was shipped to Florida, arriving just five days before the wedding. "Manhattan became a second home during wedding planning. I went back and forth several times to meet with my bridal stylist Selina Howard and to shop with my bridesmaids and mom to have that perfect look for my wedding day." • "Paul and I were so nervous and were crying our eyes out during the ceremony. Pastor Cedric even handed Paul a tissue. He used it first, and I was desperate and a mess so I used it too… Kind of gross but the audience thought it was hilarious," laughs Felicity.







"The Reception room at the Florida Yacht Club was the determining factor in choosing our wedding venue. The high vaulted ceilings outlined with deep expresso wood beams gave us the warm inviting feeling we wanted to complement our winter wedding," says Felicity.







SOMETHING'S BREWING

We all love a good cup of coffee, but Paul and Felicity love it so much their wedding theme was "The Perfect Blend." There was a bar at the reception serving specialty coffee, cold brew, cappuccino, tea and espresso. Guests also received a coffee cup with the date of the wedding as favors. • "Prior to the start of the wedding we did a first look and it was an unforgettable experience. We were hesitant at first to have a first look but we enjoyed that moment and were so overcome with emotion that in a few hours we would become husband and wife," recalls Felicity. "Our photographer, Jen Mosely, and videographer, Ashley Canay, can attest. It took quite some time for us to 'pull it together' to finish the photos."

By *Emily Bailey*



CASEY & NATE

March 2, 2019

Casey and Nate met in truly modern fashion: via the dating app Bumble. "The day we connected we were both very bad employees and chatted back and forth the whole work day. I mean non-stop. We decided we wanted to meet that night so we went to Hoptinger in Jacksonville Beach. As soon as I walked in, we immediately made eye contact and got a drink together. We spent the rest of the night unable to stop conversing. The next day we hung out again and then the rest is history," says Casey. "We had dinner together every night and have been inseparable ever since. We are both sarcastic and funny and were able to keep up with each other in conversation. We just had this connection that neither of us have ever experienced. As Nate likes to say, we just go together."

Nate arranged planned a trip to Discovery Cove in Orlando, planning on making Casey's dream of swimming with dolphins come true and capping the trip with a proposal. Hurricane Irma had her own ideas though, and caused the Orlando trip to be canceled.

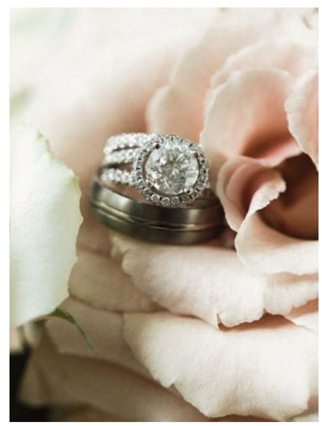
"Nate quickly thought of a different plan and it was a dream. We share a love of the outdoors and hunting—I actually introduced Nate to it. I thought it was a typical weekend in the woods with my family at our hunting camp, but man, I had no clue what was actually going to happen," says Casey. "We went to the plantation and started walking around with my dad, mom and sister. My sister has a great camera and loves taking pictures so I didn't think much of it. After a while we came to a bridge with water and Nate handed me a letter. The letter made me laugh and it made me cry. I always asked him, 'What are all the things you love about me?' and Nate would just give a general answer without details. Well, in that letter he told me every reason he loved me and that he couldn't see a life without me. That's when he got down on one knee and asked me to be his wife. Of course I said yes, but don't remember much after that. My sister captured it all on camera and I was able to celebrate with my family close by. We may have been in camo, and not all dressed up, but it was the perfect proposal and I couldn't imagine it any other way."

CREDITS

PHOTOGRAPHER: Cailin Smith Photography • **CEREMONY & RECEPTION LOCATION:** Plantation Oaks Farms • **WEDDING PLANNER:** Lauren Cowgill • **HAIR:** BlushandMane • **MAKEUP:** Lia Croke • **WEDDING GOWN & VEIL:** Love a Bridal Boutique • **BRIDE'S JEWELRY:** Miriam's Jewelry • **BRIDE'S SHOES:** Blue by Betsy Johnson • **BRIDESMAID DRESSES:** MuMu Bridesmaids • **GROOM & GROOMSMEN ATTIRE:** Men's Wearhouse • **RINGS:** Miriam's Jewelry • **CAKE:** Sweet As Cyn • **FLOWERS:** Windham Event Design by Lauren Cowgill • **DÉCOR:** Windham Event Design by Lauren Cowgill, Rentals from Handmade Rentals • **CATERER:** Mojo BBQ • **INVITATIONS:** Minted • **MUSIC:** White Tie Events








CHEERS TO THAT

"Nate picked out the suits and ties. I was hesitant about the floral ties, but we got so many compliments," says Casey. "I am proud of his choice and I love his special contribution to the wedding." • "I could not get the top off that bottle," Casey says about the champagne bottle in her bridal party photos. "I tried for more than 10 minutes. My girls tried, and it finally came off. It made for some great pictures and even better memories."

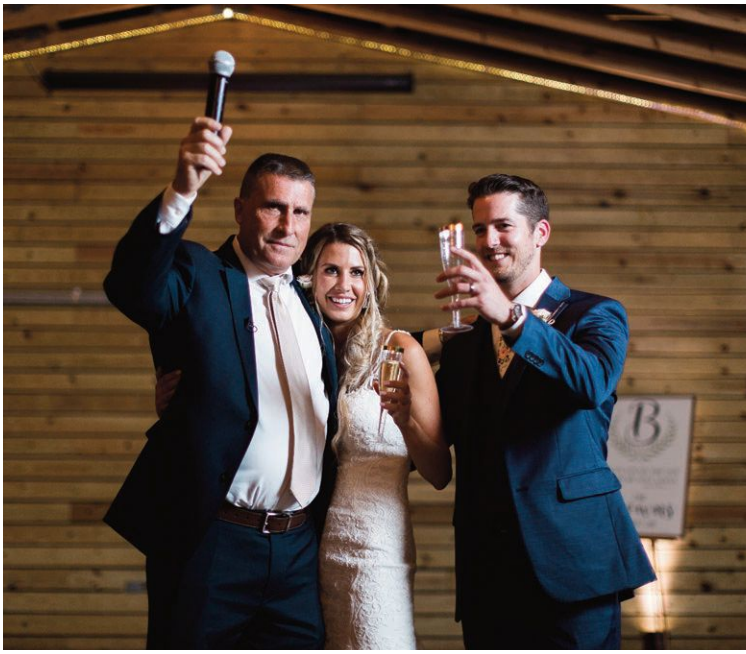




Casey's favorite part of the wedding decor were the deer antlers (seen on page 32). "It was a touch of our proposal and something we love to do together," says Casey.







STAND-UP GUY

One of the funniest and most surprising moments of the wedding was Casey's dad's speech. Channeling a standup comedian he had the crowd rolling. "My dad is my best friend and it was the perfect touch to our wedding," she says. "He also kept calling our first look the first 'sighting.' I think he's in the woods too much." • "It stormed all day and then the moment I stepped out of the barn to walk down the aisle the sun started to shine," recalls Casey.

By *Emily Bailey*



SLOANE & WESLEY

April 6, 2019

"Wesley and I had been friends for many years and playfully and harmlessly flirted quite often," Sloane says. "We never took it any further as we both knew we were not in a place for anything serious."

One weekend, Sloane went to Charleston to celebrate her birthday with some girlfriends. Caught up in the festivities, she didn't expect to receive a Snapchat from Wesley that was straight and to the point: "Do you want to go on a date next week?"

"I responded, 'Sure why not?!' I knew I could carry a conversation with him and, worst case, it was a good meal with a great guy," she says. The date ended up a being best-case scenario, the couple bonding over a four-course dinner and two bottles of wine at Eleven South.

A few years later, Sloane and Wesley planned a trip to Italy. Such a big occasion had family and friends asking if they were going to get engaged. But the trip came and went without a proposal. "Due to the many months of planning and excitement leading up to it we had easily forgotten we'd agreed on another trip two weeks after the return from Italy with my family to Mexico," Sloane recalls. With so much going on, she quickly forgot about the idea of a proposal. As she was relaxing with her family in Mexico, Wesley was stowing away a ring and hiding his nerves.

A few days into the trip he suggested they take family photos on the beach. Sloane didn't think much of it, as her mom loved taking photos. She also didn't think it was odd when he kept going to her sister's room as she was getting ready or that he asked to carry her clutch for her (to hide the ring). It wasn't until they started walking out to the beach that she became suspicious. "Wesley was quiet, holding my hand rather tight and there was no sign of my family. We finally get to the spot he had planned and he got down on one knee and everything finally made sense!" she laughs. "I always had this sixth sense that Wesley was meant to be someone in my life. I just didn't know it would be my husband."

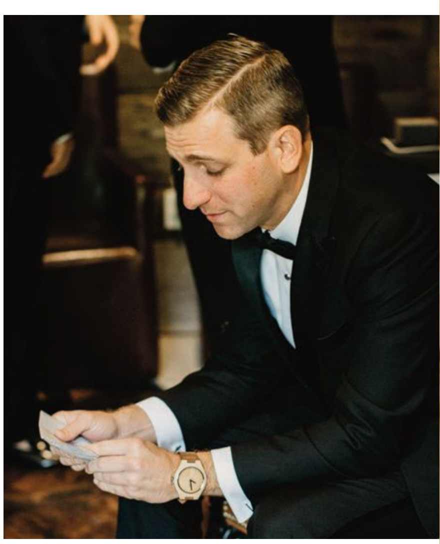
CREDITS

PHOTOGRAPHER: Christina Karst Photography • **CEREMONY & RECEPTION LOCATION:** Chandler Oaks Barn • **WEDDING PLANNER:** Heather Tutor • **HAIR:** Niki Davis of Frangipani • **MAKEUP:** Taylor Mccue of Frangipani • **WEDDING GOWN & VEIL:** One Fine Day Bridal • **BRIDE'S JEWELRY:** Anthropologie • **BRIDE'S SHOES:** Blue by Betsey Johnson • **BRIDESMAID DRESSES:** Katie May from Bella Bridesmaids • **GROOM & GROOMSMEN ATTIRE:** The Black Tux from Nordstrom • **RINGS:** Diamonds Direct • **FLOWERS:** Rose of Sharon • **DÉCOR:** Rachael Denney of West and Lee • **CATERER:** Blue Sage Cuisine • **INVITATIONS:** Katie Arbogast, 59 and Bluebell • **MUSIC:** The Band Be Easy • **SPRAY TAN:** Valerie Erb of Stay Golden • **BARTENDERS:** The Perfect Pour • **WEDDING DRESS ALTERATIONS:** Martha Shump









UNTIL THE END OF TIME

One of the first gifts Sloane gave Wesley was a wooden watch engraved with the words "I will love you until the end of time." "Everywhere Wesley goes he gets a compliment on this watch, it's truly unreal. Unfortunately, prior to the wedding the leather band in the watch broke so I knew exactly what I would get him as one of his gifts! Only this time I had the watch engraved withthe words 'I will still love you until the end of time.'" • "Among the items I came across when wedding planning were these beautiful neutral-colored agate slices that I wanted to use as place cards. This would serve two purposes, place card and a gift for the guest. I ordered the slices and had one of my maids of honor write out the name of each guest, giving it a personalized touch."



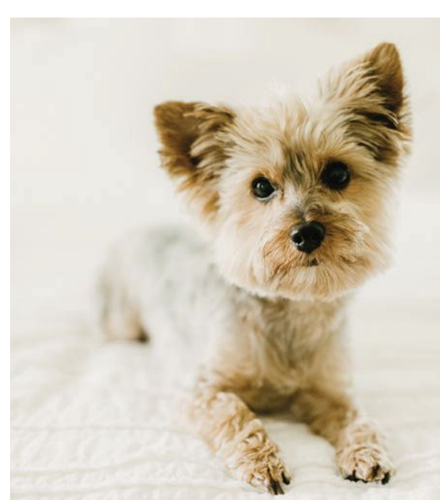






"At the end of the night Wesley and I had a romantic song to dance to while everyone gathered outside for our send off. However, once everyone left and it was just us we both kind of looked at each other, smiled and I turned to the band and said, 'Scratch that song, play something Post Malone.' We have seen him twice in concert and I quoted a Post Malone song in my day-of letter to Wesley, so it just seemed more like us. Why dance to a slow song that had no meaning for us as our final memory of the night?"







FAMILY AFFAIR

"I wanted the wedding to feel like one big family so we set up the dinner table as one very large 'U' so that the tables all felt like one," explains Sloane. "I remember sitting in the middle of the top of the U looking out at everyone and just feeling so much love and happiness in one room. It was something I will remember for the rest of my life." • "We have a dog named Leila that was included in our special day. She is a Teacup Yorkie and so full of life! We couldn't imagine the day without her. She stayed at the Airbnb with the bridesmaids the night before and got ready with the group. She was part of the ceremony and family pictures then a family friend brought her back to the Airbnb prior to the reception so that she could be with us on our wedding night."

well suited

TIPS FOR SELECTING AND WEARING THE PROPER TUX

By *John Newsom*



STYLE TIP

*The only way to ensure a perfect fit is to have a tux **tailored** just for its wearer.*





Style Tip

*For a beach wedding, forgo a dark suit for one in **cream or off-white**.*



MANY OF TODAY'S YOUNGER GROOMS HAVE HUNG UP THE TRADITIONAL TUXEDO IN FAVOR OF MORE RELAXED LOOKS. But according to Bob Rosenblum, owner of men's boutique Rosenblum's—which specializes in made-to-measure menswear—not much rivals the classic black and white ensemble in terms of sophistication. Of course, "the fit is king," he says. Here are his tips for ensuring the suit makes the man on the big day.



Beach weddings, often held earlier in the day than a black-tie affair, do call for a slightly more relaxed aesthetic. For these weddings, Rosenblum suggests a white or off-white suit or tux—they're no less formal, but still fit in on the sand. "You're getting married; you should stand out," he says. Of course, grooms wearing a tux on the beach will want to leave the flip flops at home. Rosenblum recommends choosing a shoe made of a material lighter than leather, like linen or cotton.

For a nighttime affair, grooms should go the traditional route. "If it's after 6 PM, it should be a tux," he says. That means no suits, no khakis, and absolutely no shorts, but "it doesn't have to be black." According to Rosenblum, a midnight blue jacket with a black collar conveys style but still exudes sophistication.

Step away from the ties. When wearing a tux, a bow tie is the way to go and, notes Rosenblum, another opportunity to showcase a bit of personality. Patterned bow ties (Rosenblums even stocks a line made of feathers) serve as conversation pieces and happen to make ideal gifts for the groomsmen.

The only way to ensure a perfect fit is to have a tux tailored just for its wearer. Of course, for those on a tighter budget, a rental tuxedo offers another option. For these grooms, Rosenblum offers one last piece of advice: "If you do go with a rental tux, try it on before you leave the store." It's common for men to pick out a rental tux and assume that their measurements are correct, but this isn't always the case. Rosenblum advises taking the time to try it on before leaving the store and certainly before waiting at the altar. ✣



the Wedding Party

The main event traditionally requires a white dress. While that may be true, the days leading up to the ceremony are a completely different story. A chic Atlantic Beach hotel serves as a fashion-forward backdrop for ensembles that will take you everywhere from a bachelorette getaway to a bridal shower brunch.

Photography :: AGNES LOPEZ
Makeup :: MAKEUP BY TRICIA
Hair :: GRAZYNA MERCADO
Stylist :: DONNAREINE ENTERPRISE
Location :: HOTEL PALMS
Models :: STEPHANIE WONG, ALLANA MAROLT & ASHLEY CETIN

Bridal Shower Brunch



Choose dresses as bright and colorful as the morning's cocktails.

Checking In: (lefthand page, left to right) *Alanna wears a top from Talk of the Town ($36), pants ($80), earrings ($35), bag ($80) and necklace ($30) from Momni, shoes from Jaffi's ($115) and bracelet from Ellie Bing ($65). Stephanie (the bride) wears a dress ($90) from Momni, earrings ($65), necklace ($36) and bracelets ($165 and $175) from Ellie Bing, shoes ($148) from Jaffi's, bag ($88) and ring ($125) from Ellie Bing. Ashley is wearing a jumpsuit ($110) from Momni, hat ($125) and shoes ($125) from Jaffi's, earrings ($23) and bracelet ($23) from Momni, necklace ($75) from Ellie Bing, and bag ($375) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara.*

Bridal Shower Brunch: *Ashley wears a dress from Talk of the Town ($96), bracelet ($65) and earrings ($56) from Ellie Bing, necklace ($20) from Momni and shoes ($115) from Jaffi's. Stephanie wears a dress from Momni ($110), bracelets ($38 and $58) and ring ($125) from Ellie Bing, shoes from Jaffi's ($148) and earrings ($30) and bag ($100) from Momni. Alanna wears a dress from Momni ($130), bracelet ($65), earrings ($350) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara, shoes from Jaffi's ($148) and necklace from Momni ($25).*



Bridesmaids should celebrate in more than matching dresses.

Alanna wears a bralette from Jaffi's ($69), top ($28) and pants ($38) from Talk of the Town, bag ($230), earrings ($150) and bracelet ($89) from Ellie Bing and shoes ($198) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara.

Resort Weekend



Sophisticated suits require bold accessories.

Resort Wedding Weekend: *Ashley wears a swim top ($105) and swim bottoms ($105) from Jaffi's, earrings ($23) from Momni, a bag ($38) from Talk of the Town and sunglasses ($15) from Jaffi's. Stephanie wears a swimsuit ($85) from Donna Reine, earrings ($26) and bag ($38) from Talk of the Town, sunglasses ($196) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara and a ring ($125) from Ellie Bing. Alanna wears a swim top ($112) and swim bottoms ($112), bag ($38) from Talk of the Town, sunglasses ($15) from Jaffi's and earrings ($20) from Momni.*



Bachelorette Party: *Ashley wears a dress ($130) from Momni, earrings ($125) and bracelet ($75) from Ellie Bing, shoes ($395) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara and a bag ($35) from Momni. Stephanie wears a dress ($110) from Momni, earrings ($89), bracelet ($89), necklace ($68) and ring ($125) from Ellie Bing, shoes ($148) from Jaffi's and bag ($275) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara. Alanna wears a dress ($102) from Talk of the Town, earrings ($110) from Ellie Bing, shoes ($350) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara and bralette ($24) from Talk of the Town.*

Rehearsal Dinner

The last outfit you'll ever wear out as a single woman.



Rehearsal Dinner: *Ashley wears a jumpsuit ($495) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara, earrings ($98), ring ($54) and necklace ($68) from Ellie Bing, bracelets ($130, $60), a bag ($170) and sunglasses ($196) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara and shoes ($148) from Jaffi's. Stephanie wears a dress ($96) from Talk of the Town, necklace ($95), earrings ($98) and ring ($125) from Ellie Bing, a bag ($60) from Momni and shoes ($275) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara. Alanna wears a dress ($88) from Talk of the Town, necklaces ($85, $68), earrings ($48) and bracelet ($169) from Ellie Bing, shoes ($198) from Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara and a bag ($80) from Talk of the Town.*



Stephanie wears a dress from Momni ($110), bracelets ($38 and $58) and ring ($125) from Ellie Bing, shoes from Jaffi's ($148) and earrings ($30) and bag ($100) from Momni.

FASHION CREDITS:

PHOTOGRAPHER

Agnes Lopez, 477-8516
agneslopez.com

MODELS

Stephanie Wong
Allana Marolt
Ashley Cetin

STYLIST

DonnaReine Enterprise
(954) 546-0520
donnareine.com

HAIR

Grazyna Mercado
534-7350
grazynamercado.com

MAKEUP

Patricia Kozack
655-4833
makeupbytricia.com

LOCATION

Hotel Palms
28 Sherry Drive
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
241-7776
thehotelpalms.com

WARDROBE

Ellie Bing
249-6444
elliebing.com

Jaffi's
249-4030
jaffisneptunebeach.com

Momni Boutique
438-5533
momniboutique.com

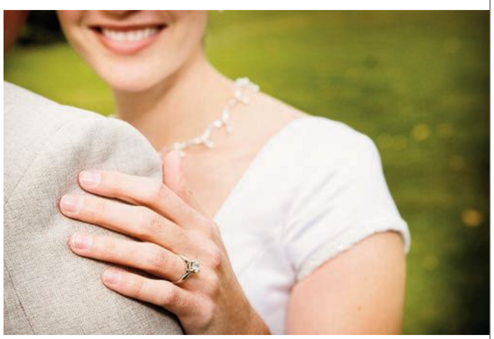
Talk of the Town
294-4267
talkofthetown1.com

Two | One | Four by Rachel Lazzara
372-0615
shop214boutique.com

ENGAGEMENT ESCAPADES

THE FIRST FIVE THINGS TO DO AFTER THE QUESTION IS POPPED

by *Lauren Willins*



Once the big question has been asked and answered it seems there are a million tasks to add to the To-Do list. But which should be conquered first? We spoke with Becca Carrigan, owner of Weddings & Design by Becca, about what should be done right after the engagement.

GET YOUR RING INSURED/SIZED

To ensure it stays safe—and if it doesn't, that there's a backup plan in place.

TALK TO FAMILY FIRST

"It's highly recommended that the first people you contact are close family," says Carrigan. "You'd never want your family to find out you're engaged through Facebook. Taking time to be alone immediately following an engagement is also a good idea."

FIND A PLANNER

According to Carrigan, a planner will cut back on the amount of time spent searching for a venue.

START LOOKING AT VENUES

"You should try to go into planning your wedding with an open mind on the date because many venues are already booked," she says. "Having a specific date can limit your options."

HIRE A PHOTOGRAPHER

"In addition to shooting your wedding, the photographer will likely shoot your engagement photos. This will ensure you're comfortable with them for your wedding day."

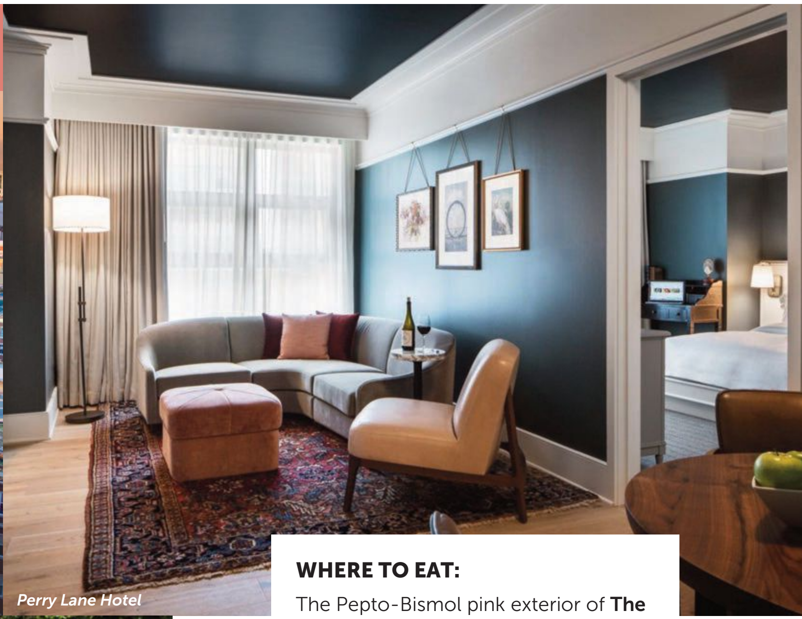
two tickets to PARADISE

More and more couples are opting to get hitched in locations other than their home cities, places where they can fold a ceremony and a mini-moon into one. Here are a handful of destinations within driving distance from Jax, plus where to eat, stay and, yes, get married, in each.

By *Cassidy Hopson*

Savannah





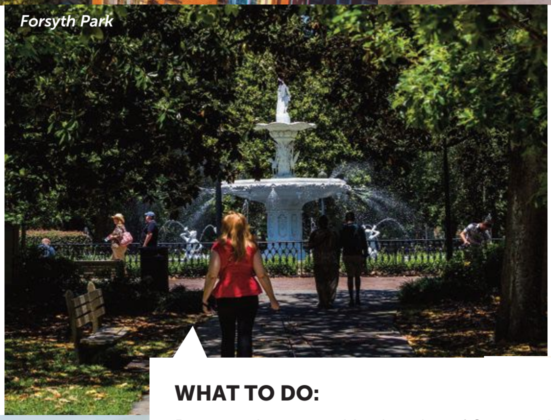
Perry Lane Hotel

DISTANCE:

A roughly 2-hour and 40-minute drive from Jax.

WHERE TO STAY:

Located in the heart of Savannah, each of **Perry Lane Hotel**'s 167 rooms are decorated with one-of-a-kind art and antiques. The hotel also has several amenities including in-room massages and a room service menu laden with specialties like house-made pappardelle. • For a homier experience, book a room at **The Windrose**, a hotel featuring boutique apartment-style rooms. The hotel is located in the southern historic district and its colorful suites include a kitchen and are outfitted with cheery vintage décor.



Forsyth Park



The Windrose

WHAT TO DO:

Become immersed in the city of Savannah during a **Genteel & Bard Walking History Tour**, which brings a museum experience outdoors. For two hours you will be guided through the history of the city from its founding in 1733 to present day. Feeling more daring? Genteel & Bard also host a ghost tour highlighting Savannah's darkest stories and most haunted locations. • Looking for an Insta-worthy photo? Stroll through **Forsyth Park**, home to an oversized fountain modeled after those found in Place de la Concorde in Cuzco, Peru, and surrounded by moss-hung oak trees. • To see the city by boat, **Savannah Riverboat Cruises** offers a variety of tours including sightseeing, dinner entertainment and moonlight cruises.

WHERE TO EAT:

The Pepto-Bismol pink exterior of **The Olde Pink House** makes a statement in Savannah's historic district. This 18th century Georgian mansion is a popular restaurant to enjoy a Southern meal like shrimp and grits and fried green tomatoes. • Want a more modern dining experience? **Cotton & Rye** serves reinvented Southern classics and prides itself on sourcing local ingredients. The restaurant was formerly a bank, with the original vault still intact, serving now as a private dining area. • Finish a day of sight-seeing with a sweet treat at **Leopold's Ice Cream**. Rated among the country's best ice creameries, the shop serves premium flavors true to original recipes trademarked in 1919.



Cotton & Rye


Red Gate Farms

WHERE TO WED:

Say "I do" at **Red Gate Farms** , a 440-acre venue featuring 300-year-old oak trees, a glistening pond, a waterfront pavilion and more. This countryside getaway is tucked away only 10 miles from downtown. The family-owned estate allows exclusive use of any of their four venues on the property for your special day. • For a historic touch, the **Gingerbread House** is a 1899 structure featuring an intimate outdoor area as well as a grand ballroom.

WHAT TO PACK

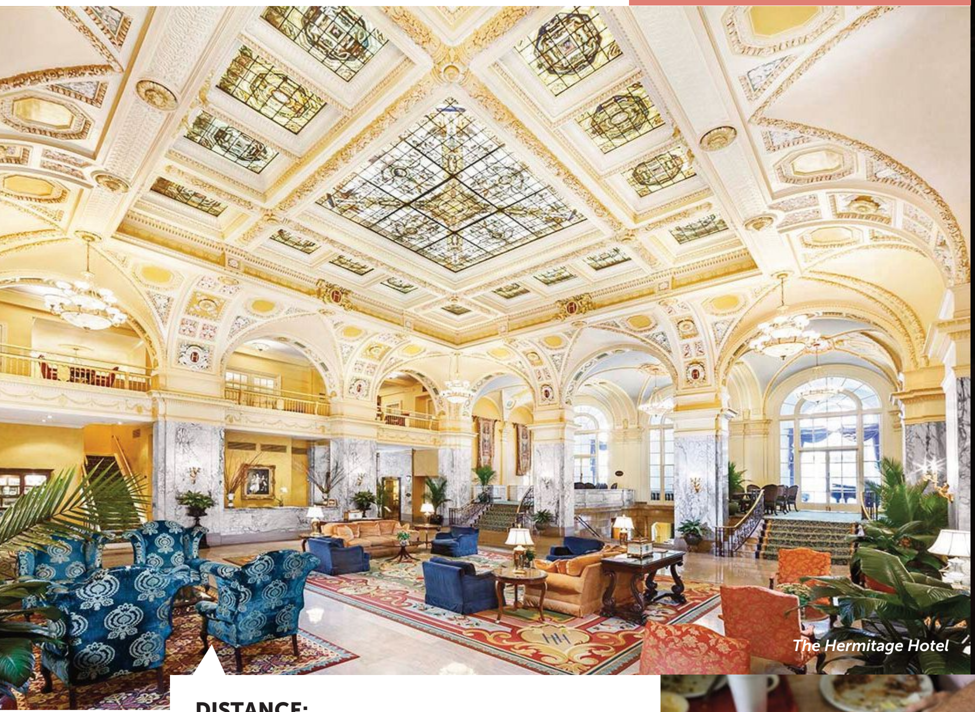
Buckle mule, $90, Something Navy for Nordstrom




Expandable suitcase, $595, Tumi


Floral dress, $100, Something Navy for Nordstrom

Nashville



The Hermitage Hotel



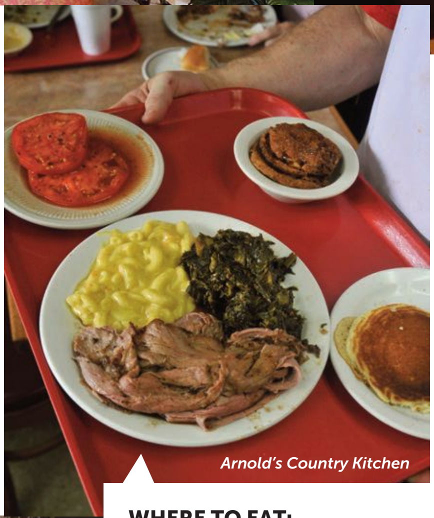
Country Music Hall of Fame

DISTANCE:

A lengthy road trip at nearly a nine-hour drive, but only an hour-and-a-half flight directly out of Jacksonville International Airport.

WHERE TO STAY:

Want to sleep where Babe Ruth, Johnny Cash and JFK did? **The Hermitage Hotel**, a five-star property located in downtown Nashville, provides luxury amenities like a bar, spa and boutique. • For those who want a cozier spot to rest their heads, **The Big Bungalow Bed & Breakfast** is a boutique space just a mile and half from city center. The B&B offers plenty of reason to get out of bed, too, with a full hot breakfast served each morning.



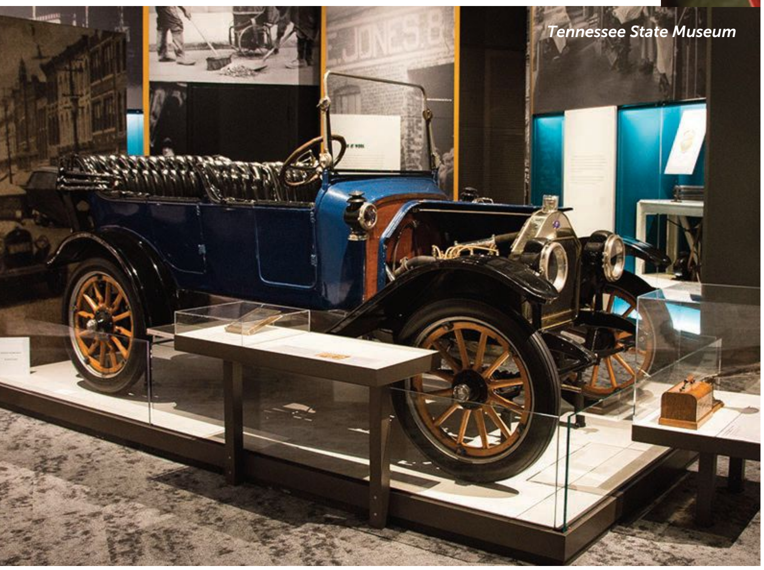
Arnold's Country Kitchen

WHAT TO DO:

Visit one of the world's largest museums, the **Country Music Hall of Fame**, home to 2.5 million artifacts. A must see at the site is the Elvis "Solid Gold" Cadillac painted with crushed diamonds and fish scales. • Another venue to behold unusual objects is the **Tennessee State Museum**, founded in 1937 to tell the story of the Volunteer State. Learn about Tennessee from pre-colonization to the 20th century and see artifacts such as an Egyptian mummy or a death mask of Napoleon. Leaving the bustling city, the **Radnor Lake State Park**, a 1,368-acre space featuring numerous jogging, hiking and biking trails.

WHERE TO EAT:

For the ultimate Southern dining experience, **Arnold's Country Kitchen** is a cafeteria-style eatery. Only serving lunch, guests have the choice of one meat and three sides including mac and cheese and creamed corn. • Another Nashville classic is hot chicken, a local specialty served at **Prince's Hot Chicken Shack**. Prince's pan-fried spicy chicken is made to order and often draws an hours-long line, but according to locals, is worth it. • Book lovers will appreciate the Ernest Hemingway-inspired bar and restaurant, **Hemingway's Bar & Hideaway**. The night spot offers a wide selection of cocktails and a menu featuring dishes such as Korean fried chicken and chopped kale salad.



Tennessee State Museum



Hemingway's Bar & Hideaway


Belle Meade Plantation

WHAT TO PACK


Lipstick trio, $88, Tom Ford

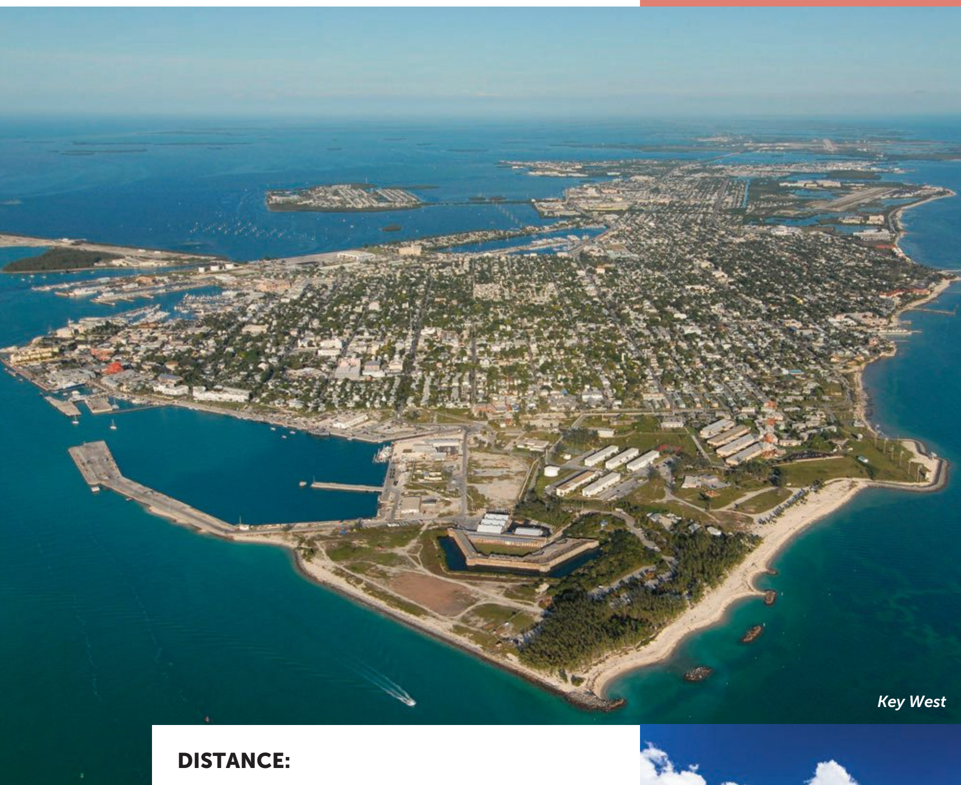

Patterned skirt, $40, H&M


Boots, $130, H&M

WHERE TO WED:

Celebrate your special day in the heart of Nashville at the historic **Belle Meade Plantation**. The venue provides an indoor barn space, cocktail lawn game area and an outdoor garden. • For an industrial-chic event, **14TENN**'s open floorplan offers the flexibility of hosting large and small events. The white interior, exposed beams and wood floors create a charming atmosphere for both a ceremony and a reception.

Key West



Key West



Key West Snorkeling Cruise



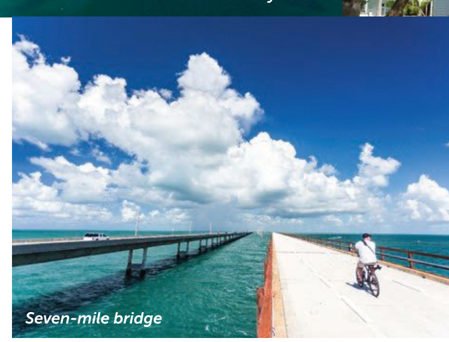
Harry S. Truman Little White House

DISTANCE:

A nearly 8-hour road trip from Jacksonville or take a 4-hour flight out of JAX (expect at least one stop).

WHERE TO STAY:

Located just a few blocks from Duval Street, **NYAH hotel** offers BYOR (build your own room) style lodging: just tell them how many guests are in your party and they'll customize your room. No matter how large your group, if you're all staying in the same room, no one pays extra. • For a more traditional hotel experience, **Margaritaville Resort & Marina** offers oceanfront rooms and its popular Sunset Bar. After checking in, pony up to the bar and catch a bird's-eye view of the nightly Sunset Celebration on the pier.



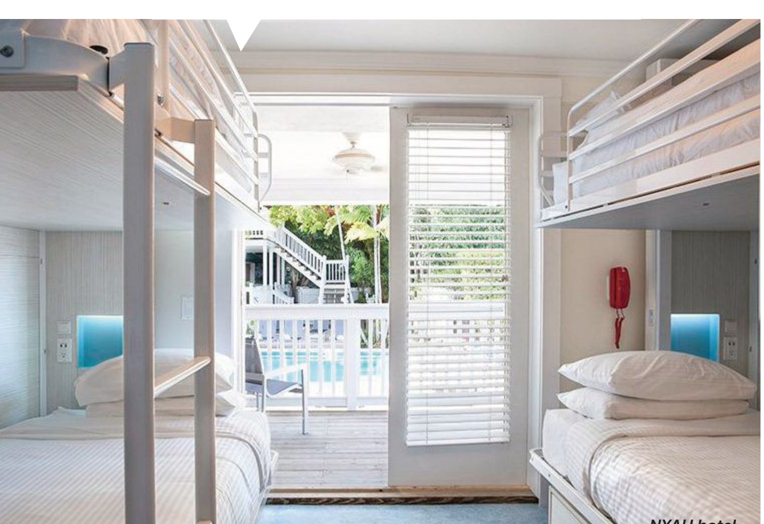
Seven-mile bridge

WHERE TO EAT:

Thirsty Mermaid specializes in fresh local seafood and a full raw bar with oysters from both coasts. • For a classic old school diner experience, **Pepe's Café** is known as the oldest joint in Key West. Pepé's serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, but is best known for its steaks. • To finish up a day of sight-seeing, stop by **Better Than Sex**, a tongue-in-cheek restaurant with only two things on the menu: dessert and drinks. Popular items include The Fever, a chocolate cake-like brownie and the Peanut Butter Perversion, a peanut butter silk pie with a chocolate chip cookie dough crust.

WHAT TO DO:

Swim in clear blue waters at North America's only living coral reef during a **Key West Reef Snorkeling Cruise.** Participants receive top-of-the-line snorkeling gear and professional instruction before descending "the stairway to the sea." • Prefer to stay on land? You can still see nature's beauty at the **Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory**, home to hundreds of butterflies and birds, such as flamingos. • For a taste of history, visit the **Harry S. Truman Little White House**, which served as a winter escape of President Truman. Occasionally, the Little White House is still used for government functions.



NYAH hotel



Thirsty Mermaid



Audubon House & Tropical Gardens

WHERE TO WED:

Celebrate a wedding under the stars at **Rooftop** café, one of the premier banquet restaurants in Key West. They accommodate intimate and large parties alike. For a beautiful outdoor wedding, **Audubon House & Tropical Gardens**, located in the heart of Old Town Key West is a great option. They are located across from Mallory Square, where you and your wedding party can slip away for photos featuring the Key West sunset.

WHAT TO PACK



Sunglasses, $140, Ray-Ban



Pink one-piece swimsuit, $35, H&M



Black romper, $50, Nordstrom

by the numbers

STATS VIA WEDDINGWIRE'S 2018 WEDDING REPORT

$5,000
The average cost of an engagement ring

32
The average age of couples when married

$36,000
The average total cost for the ring, ceremony, and honeymoon

86%
of couples post their engagement on social media

77%
of couples hold their ceremony and reception indoors

40 RECEPTION SITES

	DEPARTMENT/PERSON TO CONTACT	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EVENTS AT ONE TIME	DINNER GUEST CAPACITY	HORS D'OEUVRES GUEST CAPACITY	FULL BAR SERVICE	KOSHER KITCHEN	SPACE FOR BAND	CEREMONY SITE	OUTDOOR AREA	GUEST ROOMS	AD FOUND ON PAGE
DUVAL COUNTY											
BOWING OAKS PLANTATION Mandarin, 600-5172	Booking Manager	1	200	200	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	—
CUMMER MUSEUM OF ART & GARDENS Riverside, 356-6857	Cara Bowyer	1	220	350	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	58
ELLIE'S GARDEN Jacksonville, 502-1099	Kimberly Gutierrez	1	300+	500+	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	—
EPPING FOREST YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB San Jose, 739-7200	Linda Henry	1	175-250	400-600	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	59
FRIDAY MUSICALE Downtown, 355-7584	Jeff S. Tawney	2	150	175	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	—
HAMPTON INN OCEANFRONT Jacksonvillle Beach, 685-3008	Sierra Perambo	2	150	150	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	177	61
HYATT PLACE JACKSONVILLE / ST. JOHNS TOWN CTR St. Johns Town Center, 632-7225	Carrie Tawney	1	150	150	yes	no	DJ only	yes	yes	160	51
NORTH BEACH BISTRO Atlantic Beach, 372-4105	Daniel Chao	2	60	150	75	no	yes	no	yes	no	—
ONE OCEAN RESORT & SPA Atlantic Beach, 853-2330	Megan Garasman	1	250	400	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	193	—
RIVERSIDE HOUSE Riverside, 387-9927	Ashley Sanford	1	125	125	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	58
THE RIVER CLUB Downtown, 354-1111	Linda Henry	1	240	400	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	59
SAN MARCO PRESERVATION San Marco, 537-2696	Robin Robinson	1	80	60	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	58
ST. JOHNS COUNTY											
CAFFE ANDIAMO Ponte Vedra Beach, 280-2299	Gianni Recupito	1	50	100	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	48
CASA MONICA HOTEL St. Augustine, 819-6087	Joni Barkley	3	250	350	yes	no	yes	yes*	yes	138	—
KING & BEAR St. Augustine, 940-6121	Melanie Thompson	1	80	100	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	—
THE LODGE & CLUB Ponte Vedra Beach, 285-3773 • Jdahlberg@pvresorts.com	Jennifer Dahlberg	1	175	215	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	66	—
PONTE VEDRA INN & CLUB Ponte Vedra Beach, 273-7755	Jennifer Graves	1+	450	750	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	250	3
THE REEF RESTAURANT Vilano Beach, 824-8008	Danielle Morse	2	80	100	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	6

*WEDDING RECEPTION ONLY

	DEPARTMENT/PERSON TO CONTACT	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EVENTS AT ONE TIME	DINNER GUEST CAPACITY	HORS D'OEUVRES GUEST CAPACITY	FULL BAR SERVICE	KOSHER KITCHEN	SPACE FOR BAND	CEREMONY SITE	OUTDOOR AREA	GUEST ROOMS	AD FOUND ON PAGE
ST. JOHNS COUNTY *(cont'd)*											
RENAISSANCE RESORT AT WORLD GOLF VILLAGE St. Augustine, 940-8000		2	600	600	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	300	—
SAWGRASS MARRIOTT GOLF RESORT & SPA Ponte Vedra Beach, 285-7777	Khefhini Williams	12+	1,000	1,600	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	514	11
SERENATA BEACH CLUB Vilano Beach, 823-3368	Cordel Crowley	1	125	150	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	19
TPC SAWGRASS Ponte Vedra Beach, 273-3344	Molly Kirk	7	500	1,000	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	53
WORLD GOLF HALL OF FAME St. Augustine, 940-4021	Elizabeth McKenna	3	240	1,000	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	300	—
CLAY COUNTY											
AZALEANA MANOR Orange Park, 264-6070	Carla Sparks	1	200	500	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	22	15
CLAY THEATRE Orange Park, 710-0911	Andrea Vallencourt	1	200	200	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	17
CLUB CONTINENTAL Orange Park, 264-6070	Carla Sparks	1	250	350	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	22	15
THE MANOR AT 12 OAKS Green Cove Springs, 657-2290	Booking Manager	1	250	250	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	—
THRASHER-HORNE CENTER Orange Park, 276-6815	Ellen Hare/Bob Olsen	1	220	400	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	—
WINTERBOURNE INN Orange Park, 264-2114	Coordinating Staff	1	150	175	no	no	yes	yes	yes	30	—
NASSAU COUNTY											
AMELIA HOTEL AT THE BEACH Amelia Island, 206-5600	Jayla Awa	1	50	50	no	no	no	no	no	89	—
THE BARN AT COTTONWOOD RANCH Callahan, 677-1350	Jane Moore	1	299	299	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	3	—
OMNI AMELIA ISLAND PLANTATION Amelia Island, 321-5045	Dorry Taylor	5	600	1,600	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	750	—
RESIDENCE INN AMELIA ISLAND Amelia Island, 277-2440	Jenna Moore	1	60	75	no	no	yes	yes	yes	133	—
THE RITZ-CARLTON, AMELIA ISLAND Amelia Island, 491-6765	Joe Murphy	6-10	1,000	2,000	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	446	—
GEORGIA'S GOLDEN ISLES											
GREYFIELD INN Cumberland Island, 261-6408	Coordinating Staff	1	50	50	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	15	—
HORSE STAMP INN Waverly, (912) 882-6280	Pamela Ahrens	1	500	500	no	no	yes	yes	yes	5	—
JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB RESORT Jekyll Island, (855) 787-3857	Patty Henning	—	250	300	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	200	—
KING & PRINCE BEACH & GOLF RESORT Saint Simons Island, (912) 268-5010	Scarlett Starr	4	270	350	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	195	—
SEA ISLAND RESORT Sea Island, (855) 714-9201	Caroline Grogan	13	400	400	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	300+	—
WESTIN JEKYLL ISLAND Jekyll Island, (912) 635-4545	Robin Monosa	2	200	250	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	200	—

made to honor

MOH 101.

The coveted title "Maid of Honor" actually comes with quite a bit of responsibility, from planning showers to ensuring the bride feels special on her big day. Here's what being a stellar maid of honor actually entails, according to an expert.

by *Cassidy Hopson*

RING LEADER • The maid of honor is technically in charge of the rest of the bridesmaids, and should make sure everyone adheres to her own duties. Pre-wedding that means checking in to make sure the other bridesmaids get their dresses, go to their fittings and make it to the rehearsal. For the day of, the maid of honor should set a schedule for the rest of the bridal party to ensure they all arrive on time and have their hair and makeup done in a timely manner. But she shouldn't let that power go to her head. "I don't think a maid of honor should assume she has as much clout as the bride," says Adair Currie, the lead designer of Dairing Events. In other words, she shouldn't demand to have a different dress than the other bridesmaids or request to have more time spent on her makeup.

PLANNER • Possibly the most important job of the MOH is to help plan the various events that come with a wedding. "The maid of honor should make sure all of the bridesmaids are involved in helping plan the bridal shower," says Currie, and should host and plan the bachelorette party. Additionally, if the bride does not have a wedding planner, it is important to help her out with planning the ceremony as well.

WING WOMAN • The bride will likely need help with everything from designing wedding invitations to keeping her cool on the big day. It's the maid of honor's job to be there for her in each step along the way, listening to her ideas and giving advice when asked. "Always be by the bride's side," says Currie. "Keeping the bride calm on the wedding day is the most important thing a maid of honor can do."

TOASTMASTER • It's traditional that a maid of honor make a speech at either the wedding or the rehearsal dinner. Currie recommends speeches include an introduction and a story that depicts her friendship with the bride.

SIGNATORY • After the ceremony, a couple might be asked for two witnesses present to sign the marriage license. It's common practice for the maid of honor to sign the marriage license along with the best man.

CASUAL & CATERED

THE MOVE AWAY FROM SIT-DOWN, ASSIGNED SEATING, SET MENU DINNERS

by *John Newsom*

Put a check next to "chicken" or "fish". That was the mantra of the wedding receptions of yesteryear. These days, it's more common to ditch the sit-down dinner in favor of casual catering. Carlianne Nawrocki, catering manager at The Bearded Pig, is on the front lines of the casual and catered movement. "When I first started in this business, I was shocked at how many wedding inquiries I actually got," she says. But who doesn't love barbecue?

Nawrocki explains there are a variety of pros to a buffet style affair—the cost of serving staff is reduced, and portions are inherently more controlled, which is a bit easier on the food budget.

A catered reception also removes excess decision-making. Instead of couples having to worry about a full menu, the caterer often offers a menu from which clients can choose.

Additionally, buffet-style dining encourages a more social atmosphere. Cocktails can be served at the same time as dinner and the dance party doesn't have to stop just because the food comes out.

Nawrocki offers a few tips for those opting for a more casual, catered event:

BE CONSCIOUS OF YOUR GUEST'S DIETARY NEEDS

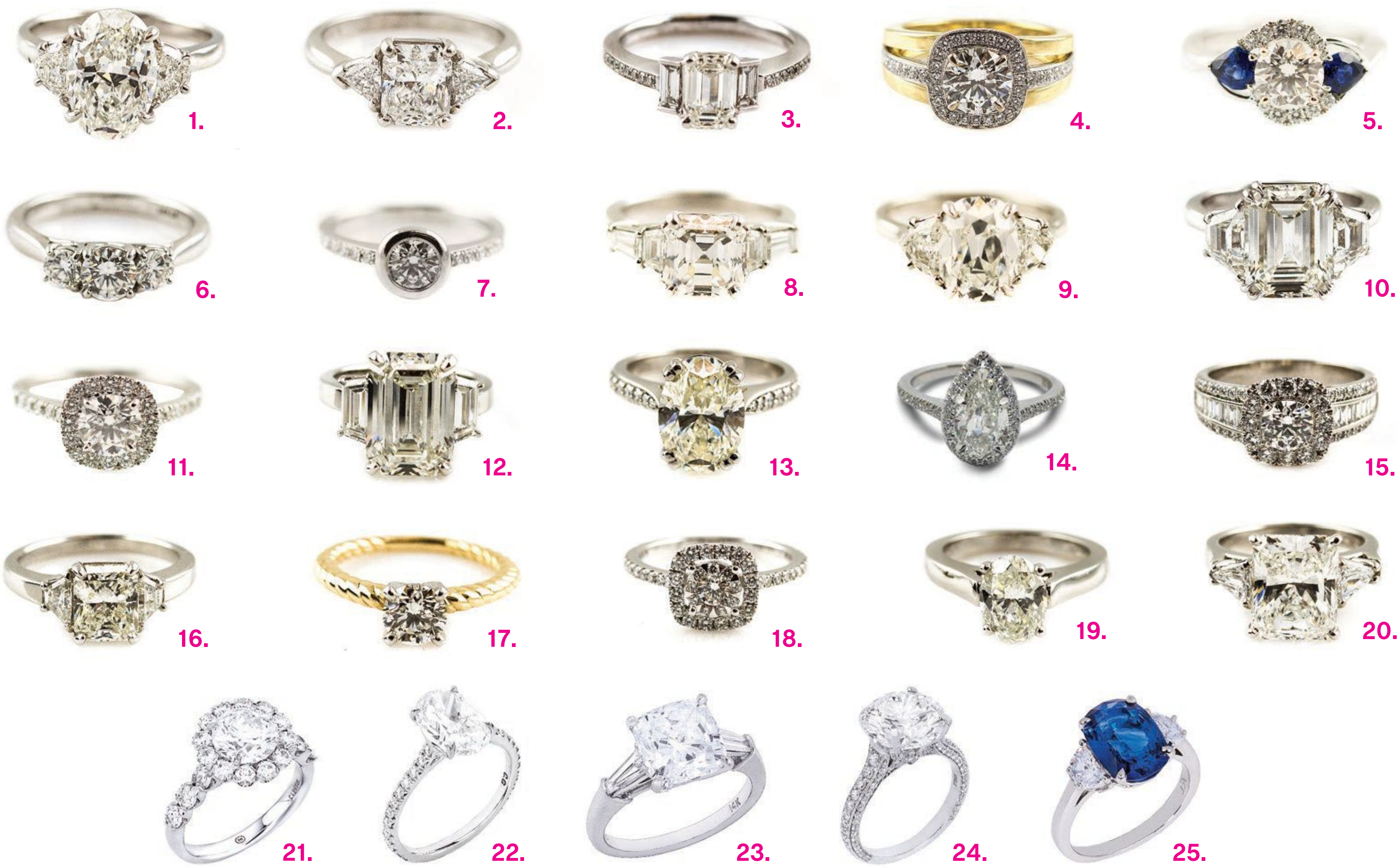
Gluten-free and vegan options are more important at modern weddings. It's not possible to anticipate every dietary need, but having a few meat- or gluten-free options is a good idea.

MAINTAIN A BUDGET AND STICK TO IT

Have a general idea of the number of mains and sides you'd like to offer guests, and don't deviate from that.

COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR EVENT COORDINATOR AND CATERER

Nawrocki says that most of the stressful situations she's noticed at receptions could have been avoided with proper communication between the clients and the caterer. ✣



1. 3.18ct. oval Forevermark Exceptional diamond in handmade platinum setting with side halfmoon diamonds. *$60,000*

2. 1.70ct. radiant diamond in handmade platinum Underwood's ring with side trilliant diamonds. *$21,000*

3. 1.04ct. emerald cut diamond in platinum Underwood's ring with side emerald cuts and diamond shank. *$8,200*

4. 1.25ct. round ideal cut diamond in 18kt. yellow and white gold Underwood's ring with diamond shank. *$15,200*

5. 1.07ct. round Forevermark diamond in Underwood's 18 kt. white gold ring with side blue sapphires. *$12,500*

6. Three round Forevermark diamonds in platinum ring by Underwood's .98ct. t.w. *$5,750*

7. .51ct. round Forevermark diamond in bezel set platinum Underwood's ring with diamond shank. *$3,400*

8. 3.03 Asscher cut diamond in handmade Underwood's platinium ring with side trapezoid and tapered baguette diamonds. *$56,000*

9. 3.0ct. cushion Forevermark exceptional diamond in handmade platinum Underwood's ring with side epaulette diamonds. *$63,800*

10. 4.55ct. emerald cut diamond in Underwood's handmade ring with side trapezoid diamonds. *Call for price*

11. .9ct round ideal cut Forevermark diamond in Underwood's platinum cushion diamond halo ring. *$8,350*

12. Platinum 7.58ct. emerald cut diamond Underwood's ring with side trapezoid diamonds at 1.42ct. t.w. *Call for price*

13. 4.01ct. Forevermark oval cut diamond set in platinum with accent diamonds at .25ct.t.w. *Call for price*

14. 1.01ct. pear-shaped diamond ring in 18kt. white gold with additional round brilliant cut diamonds on the halo and shank that total .24ct.t.w. *$10,400*

15. Ideal cut Forevermark diamond halo ring in three row Underwood's diamond mounting. Total weight .97ct.t.w. *$6,200*

16. Radiant cut diamond ring in handmade Underwood's mounting with side trapezoid cut diamonds. Total weight 2.54ct.t.w. *$16,800*

17. 1.00ct. solitaire diamond Underwood's ring set in a platinum head with a 14kt. yellow gold rope shank. *$4,995*

18. Forevermark diamond "Bouquet" engagement ring by Underwood's. Total weight .65ct. t.w. *$2,600*

19. Platinum Underwood's solitaire engagement ring with a 2.01ct. oval diamond. *$14,900*

20. 5.38ct. radiant cut diamond in a platinum handmade Underwood's mounting with side calf head cut diamonds at .59ct. t.w. *Call for price*

UNDERWOOD'S
San Marco, 2044 San Marco Blvd., (904) 398-9741 • The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra, (904) 280-1202 • Avondale, 3617 St. Johns Ave., (904) 388-5406
underwoodjewelers.com

---

21. Halo style engagement ring with a round brilliant cut diamond.

22. Micro pavé style engagement ring with an oval cut diamond.

23. Three-stone style engagement ring with a cushion cut diamond and tapered baguettes.

24. Contemporary style engagement ring with a round brilliant cut diamond.

25. Three-stone style engagement ring with an oval cut blue sapphire and half moon diamonds.

DIAMONDS DIRECT
The Markets at Town Center, 4870 Big Island Dr., Suite 1, (904) 515-5959
diamondsdirect.com

bling bling

PUT A NON-TRADITIONAL RING ON IT

by *Deanna Pisacreta*

While a traditional diamond engagement ring is a timeless classic, more and more couples are opting to go an unconventional route, turning instead to stones such as Indian black sapphire, Brazilian citrine, or even incorporating the couple's birthstones into the design. Laurel Baker, owner of Anchor Boutique in St. Augustine, creates one-of-a-kind engagement rings for couples across the country using the custom designs she creates with her clients to tell their stories. "The result are pieces that have an overall classic feel yet the details incorporate the freedom of today's contemporary design," Baker says. Here, she offers a few tips to consider when choosing to buy a custom ring for the big day:

DON'T DELAY
Custom rings take time, sometimes as long as six months to complete.



KNOW YOUR BUDGET
Custom and unique doesn't necessarily mean expensive, but be honest and upfront with your jeweler when you go in to design the ring.

CHOOSE A JEWELER WISELY
It's important to find a jeweler you connect with in order to trust their expertise and advice when designing the ring. "You want to research their work, see their portfolio of custom creations and find out what their customers are saying," says Baker.

BE CREATIVE
There are a wide variety of gemstones, cuts, band designs, and more to choose from when going the unconventional route. Don't be afraid to get inspired by something new—the possibilities are endless.

CHECK OUT EXISTING PIECES
There are so many ring designs out there, you may love one that already exists. From there alterations can be made to fit specific tastes.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY
"It's important to have your list of must-haves," says Baker. Communicate this list with the jeweler early in the process to achieve that perfect ring. ✣

RING PHOTO COURTESY LAUREL BAKER

Azaleana Manor



This stunning waterfront Jacksonville wedding venue includes a 10,000-square-foot mansion, renovated with careful attention to its historical charm, as well as four acres of riverfront property. **12 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073 • (904) 930-7514 azaleanamanor.com**

Clay Theatre



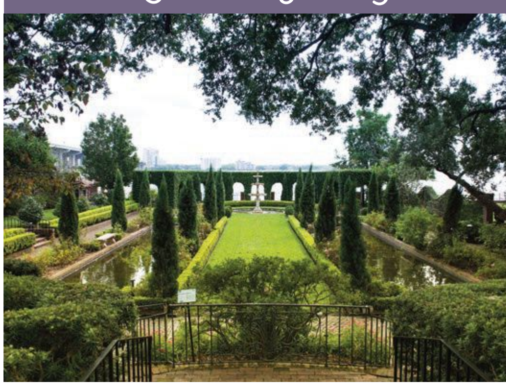
Clay Theatre is a movie theatre from 1937 that has been transformed into a venue for glamorous wedding ceremonies and receptions. **326 Walnut St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, (904) 710-0911 claytheatre.com**

The Club Continental



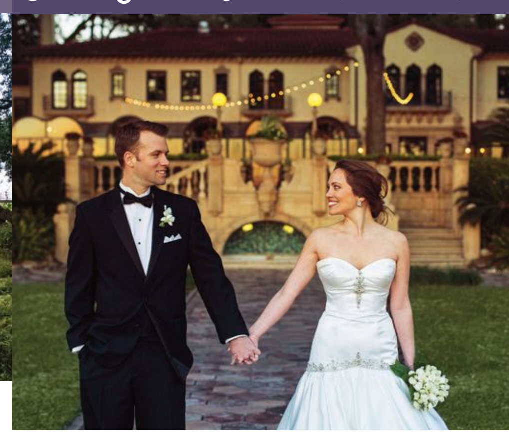
The Club Continental offers a ceremony under a 300-year-old live oak tree draped in Spanish moss and against the backdrop of the serene St. Johns River. You will find our staff very accommodating, professional and pleasant to work with. It is important to all of us at The Club Continental that your expectations are exceeded throughout your experience with us. **2143 Astor St., Orange Park, FL 32073 • Contact Carla Sparks (904) 264-6070 clubcontinental.com**

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens



The elegant Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, with its sweeping view of the St. Johns River, offers a unique setting for your special occasion. With indoor and outdoor venue space, as well as an on-site caterer, the Cummer can host a wide array of celebratory gatherings. **829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32204 • (904) 356-6857 cummermuseum.org/rentals**

Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club



Offering views of lush gardens and the St. Johns River, Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club is the premier location for weddings and special events. **1830 Epping Forest Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32217 • (904) 739-7200 efyc.com**

Hampton Inn Jacksonville Beach Oceanfront



Allow our on-site planning team to attend to every detail, as together we organize a wonderful wedding your guests won't soon forget. Choose from two sizeable banquet rooms, the White Sands Room and Sand Dollar Room, or reserve our breathtaking Ocean Lawn—a stand-out in Jacksonville wedding venues. **1515 1st St. N., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 • (904) 685-3008 hamptoninn.com**

Hyatt Place Jacksonville/St. Johns Town Center



Tying the knot in Jacksonville? Need a place for your out of town guests? Our place is in the ideal location for St. Johns Town Center. **4742 Town Center Pkwy., Jacksonville, FL 32246 • (904) 641–7200 hyattplacejacksonvillestjohnstowncenter.com**

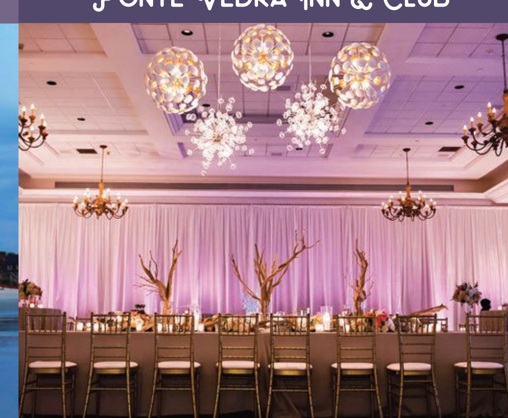
One Ocean Resort Hotel & Spa



Dana Goodson Photography

Nestled on the pristine shores of Atlantic Beach, One Ocean Resort Hotel & Spa is an exquisite choice for elegant weddings and receptions, private parties and special occasions. **1 Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach, FL 32233 • (904) 249-7402 oneoceanresort.com**

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club



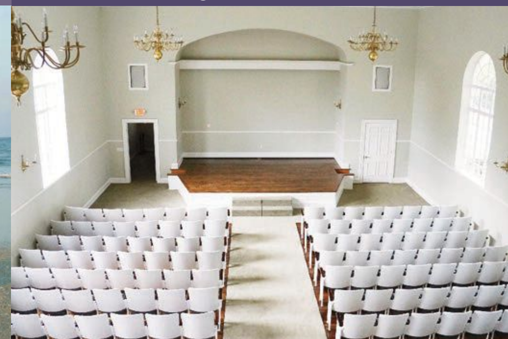
A Northeast Florida landmark since 1928, this AAA Five-Diamond resort features 250 rooms, the Atlantic surf, beach, golf, tennis, fitness, spa, shopping and dining. **200 Ponte Vedra Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 pontevedra.com/inn-and-club**

The Reef



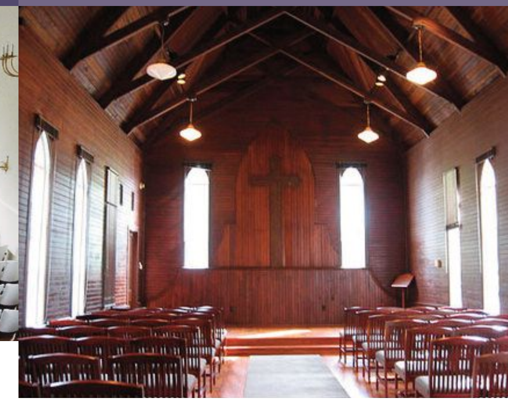
Spectacular oceanfront venue with facilities for beach ceremonies, banquet room with bar, dance floor, sit-down or buffet dining options for receptions or rehearsal dinners. **4100 Coastal Hwy., St. Augustine, FL 32084 • (904) 824-8008** **thereefstaugustine.com**

The Riverside House



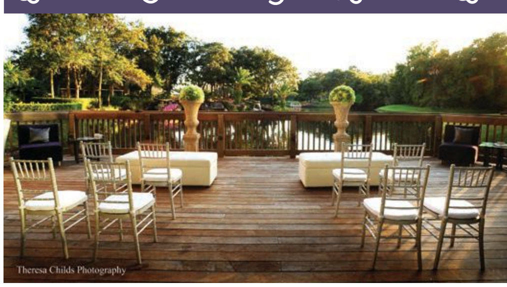
Set in historic Riverside/Avondale, this 1925 former church has all the charm to make your wedding day perfect. This venue has a reception room, auditorium, full kitchen—perfect for any caterer—as well as a separate room for bridal dressing and preparation. Convenient to picturesque waterfront parks. **2165 Park St., Jacksonville, FL 32204 • (904) 387-9927** **jljacksonville.org/riverside-house**

San Marco Preservation Hall



The intimate setting of this small 1888 Gothic church is perfect for weddings, with separate facilities for bridal dressing and preparation. Restrooms and food preparation areas available. Centrally located in historic San Marco. **1652 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207 • (904) 396-4734** **smpsjax.com**

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa



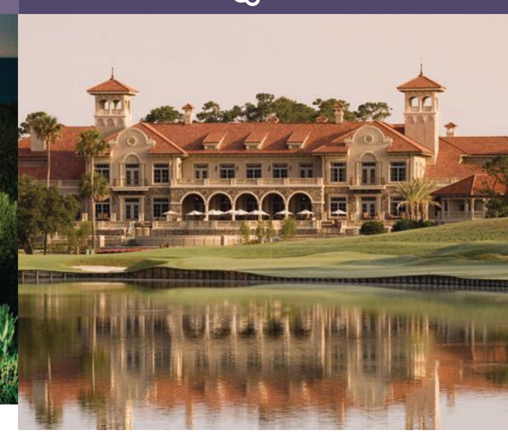
Take your first step down the aisle at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. Surrounded by lagoons, waterfalls, moss-draped oaks and magnolia trees, we offer many scenic and unique ceremony and reception settings for beginning your journey together. Whether your taste is an outdoor lakefront or a ballroom, our Certified Event Planners will help you design custom menus and our staff will provide unparalleled service to ensure the day of your dreams is truly unforgettable. **1000 PGA Tour Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 • (904) 285-7777** **sawgrassmarriott.com**

Serenata Beach Club



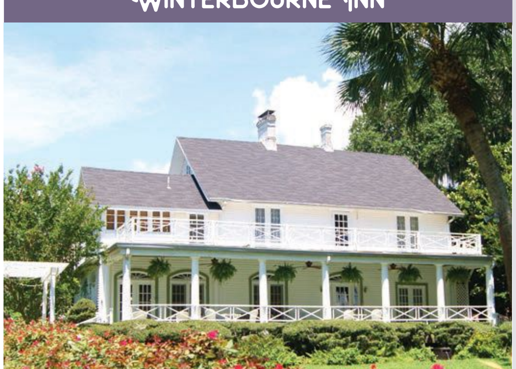
Perched atop high dunes and overlooking the beautiful Atlantic Ocean between Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Augustine, Serenata features all the wedding amenities couples would expect from a first-class wedding site. **3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 • (904) 823-3368** **serenataclub.com**

TPC Sawgrass



Whether casual, formal or anything in between, each of our banquet rooms or event lawns can be transformed into a truly memorable setting for you and your guests. **110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 • (904) 273-3344** **tpc.com/sawgrass**

Winterbourne Inn



On the banks of the St. Johns River, this Plantation-style home remains as beautiful and stately as it did upon completion in 1874. The lush waterfront lawn is shaded by statuesque 300-year-old live oak trees that are dripping with the southern romance of Spanish moss. **2143 Astor St., Orange Park, FL 32073 • (904) 264-2114** **winterbourneonthestjohns.com**

For more information, please see our Reception Chart on pages 56-57.

Bakeries / Cakes

Publix

As the centerpiece of your first celebration as a wedded couple, your wedding cake should be gorgeous. Talk to our experienced decorators, who can create your dream cake. We customize our cakes to your liking, with your favorite flavors, fillings and icings in the perfect color, shape, and size. Our wedding cake decorators use their expertise, and listen to your suggestions. **publix.com**

Beauty

LASH

LASH specializes in eyelashes, of course, offering extensions, fills, lifts and tints (a perm and a dye for lashes). After the eyes are taken care of, don't forget the brows—the salon also offers microblading, waxing and tinting, plus full-body waxing services and a variety of facials to leave skin looking its best and brightest. **1500 Beach Blvd., Suite 114, Jacksonville, FL 32250 • (904) 758-1072** **lashjax.com**

Catering / Restaurants

The Bearded Pig Catering

Full service BBQ catering for weddings, rehearsal dinners and other special events. Authentic Texas-inspired Southern BBQ made fresh—from scratch. **1225 Hendricks Ave., Suite #3, Jacksonville, FL 32207 • Contact JD or Chad (904) 527-3985** **thebeardedpigbbq.com**

Caffé Andiamo

Caffé Andiamo is a family-owned and managed restaurant that specializes in contemporary Italian flair paired with traditional, fresh ingredients. They have been a local favorite for over a decade. The restaurant's event space can accommodate up to 100 people for a reception with full bar service and space for a band. **500 Sawgrass Village Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 • (904) 280-2299** **caffeandiamo-pvb.com**

Mojo Bar-B-Que

Whether your event is an intimate gathering or a large scale wedding, Mojo has you covered with plenty of stick-to-your-ribs barbecue, as well as from-scratch side items such as smoked corn, creamy coleslaw and mac and cheese. **(904) 524-8952** **mojobbq.com**

Clothing / Accessories

Rosenblum's

An unparalleled shopping experience—including custom clothing—with free lifetime alterations and delivery, and personal shopping. **5500 San Jose Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207 • (904) 733-8633; 2400-203 South 3rd St. Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 • (904) 247-9755 • (904) 527-3985** **rosenblumsonline.com**

THE A LIST

SELECT NORTHEAST FLORIDA WEDDING SERVICE PROVIDERS

Event Rentals & Design

Beachview Event Rentals & Design

We have everything you could need for your special event. Beachview will travel, design and rent for events of every size anywhere in the world. Our carefully curated collection of tents, furniture, lighting, linens and more create the most exquisite environments. **Park St. #206, Jacksonville, FL 32205; 101-B Commercial Dr., Woodbine, GA 31569 • (904) 381-8877** **beachview.net**

Flowers

Liz Stewart Floral Designer

Liz Stewart Floral Design creates the very best in fine flowers and décor for weddings and all your special occasions in Northeast Florida and beyond. We offer beautiful daily deliveries throughout Jacksonville as well as a unique selection of containers and home accessories. **1404 Third St. S., Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 • (904) 246-0016** **lizflowers.com**

Invitations / Stationery / Gifts

The Write Touch

The Write Touch offers an eclectic mix of custom invitations, stationery, writing instruments, fine leather and unique gifts. Our store is the consummate resource for the art of civilized communication, with everything from traditional engraved invitations on hand-laid paper to contemporary digitally printed options. We are here to help you navigate our volumes of unique albums in a relaxed, yet professional and creative environment. **1967 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207 • (904) 398-2009** **thewritetouch.com**

Jewelry

Diamonds Direct

Diamonds Direct is North Florida's best kept jewelry secret. Our carefully selected team of Diamond Specialists are dedicated to providing detailed education, expert guidance, the largest selection of loose diamonds and unrivaled value. Our custom jewelry designers can help you create something one-of-a-kind. **The Markets at Town Center, 4870 Big Island Dr., Suite 1, Jacksonville, FL 32246 • (904) 515-5959** **diamondsdirect.com**

Underwood's

Underwood's is devoted to being the best jeweler in the South through a long-term philosophy that quality in merchandise, presentation, personal service and integrity will bring the customer back to shop with us. **The Shoppes of Ponte Vedra (904) 280-1202; Avondale (904) 388-5406; San Marco (904) 398-9741** **underwoodjewelers.com**

Wedding & Event Planning

Monica B. Weddings & Events

Multicultural. Diverse. Unique. With more than 17 years in the industry, Monica B. Events has a proven track record of creating beautiful events that are remembered. Full and partial planning packages available. **(904) 386-5662** **monicabevents.com**



DUUUVAL!

ONE COUPLE INCORPORATES THE JAGS INTO THEIR BIG DAY

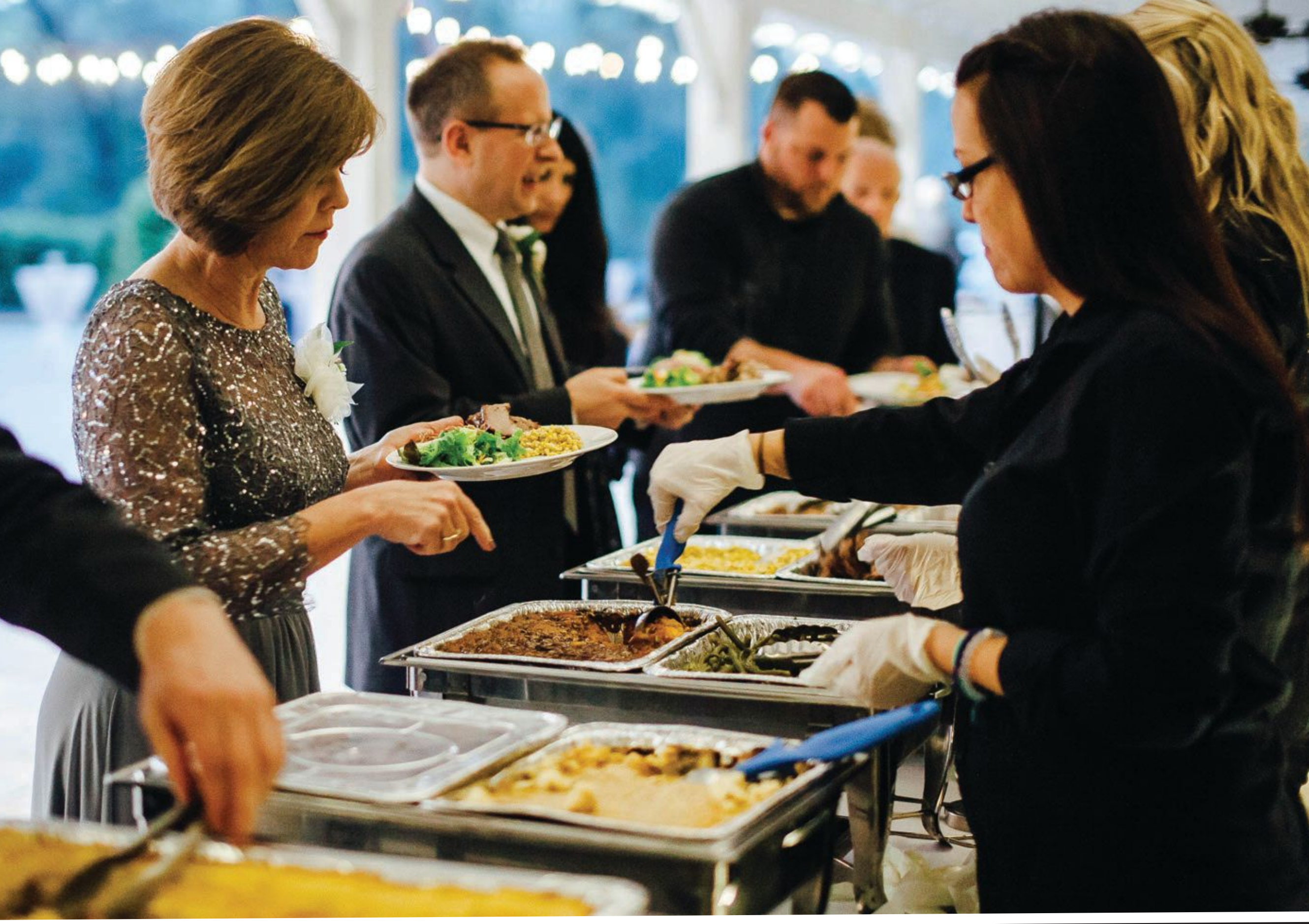
By *Emily Bailey* // Photo by *West House Photography*

Jocel and Kevin had been running in the same circle of friends for years—but oddly never actually met one another. It wasn't until they both ended up on a group trip to Atlanta that they started to get acquainted. The friendship blossomed into romance and, before long, the couple decided to tie the knot.

When it came to their wedding day, Jocel and Kevin wanted it to be a reflection of who they are—and Kevin is a Jaguars fan. A really, really big fan. "Kevin was part of the Jax Pack for years. I would see him during the games on the field, running with the NFL and Jags flags, cheering them on and tossing t-shirts to fans," laughs Jocel.

To incorporate their love of the game into their big day, the couple decided to put the garter around a Jags' football for its toss. "Somehow it landed right back to us during the sparkler exit. It was being tossed around the dance floor between guests. Even the kids were playing catch with it," she says. "It's amazing how it went full circle."

Once it ended up back in Kevin's hand, he proudly held it up for his grand exit. The guests, in true Jacksonville fashion, sent them off with a loud and cheerful, "Duuuuuval!"




catering by
MOJO Bar B Que
Weddings & Rehearsal Dinners
Sherry Fasano
MOJO
BAR-B-QUE
"A Southern Blues Kitchen"
MOJOBBQ.COM

CHRISTOPHER DESIGNS
NEW YORK



L'AMOUR
CRISSCUT®
The New Shape of Love™

DIAMONDS DIRECT
Your love. Our passion.

Diamonds Direct has a new home! Come see us off Town Center Parkway, left of The Hyatt.

4840 Town Center Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL 32246 ◆ (904) 515-5959 ◆ www.diamondsdirect.com

Official Jeweler of the Jacksonville Jaguars